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The Flat Hat

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY SINCE 1911

<http://flathat.wm.edu>

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SANDRA'S DAY



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT

Sandra Day O'Connor, the country's first female Supreme Court justice, was invested as the College's 23rd chancellor at a ceremony in the Wren Courtyard Sunday morning. Gene Nichol, who became the College's 26th president last year, was also inaugurated at the ceremony.

College installs Nichol, greets O'Connor as 23rd chancellor

AUSTIN WRIGHT
FLAT HAT ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female justice on the Supreme Court of the United States, was officially invested as the College's 23rd chancellor, and President Gene Nichol was inaugurated as the College's 26th president in a joint ceremony held in the Wren Courtyard April 7.

According to William and Mary News, approximately 4,500 people attended the inauguration and investiture.

O'Connor joins a distinguished group of College chancellors that includes President George Washington, alumnus President John Tyler, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

"I thank all of you, and President Nichol,

for the great honor and this new experience of being what I never thought I would be as a cowgirl in Arizona — chancellor of this wonderful College of William and Mary," O'Connor said.

The ringing of the Wren bells at 10:30 a.m. signaled the start of the event. Board of Visitors Rector Susan Magill, who presided over the ceremony, spoke first. She said the occasion was a celebration of the "happy and productive partnership of our College and two extraordinary leaders."

After eight speakers, including Virginia State Senator Thomas Norment, Jr. (R-3rd), University of Virginia President John Casteen III and Student Assembly President junior Ryan Scofield, Magill invited Nichol and O'Connor to join her at the podium. She placed a medallion, the symbol of the office, around O'Connor's neck and declared the investiture complete.

O'Connor began her speech by referring to the College as her "new William and Mary family."

She said that historically the College played a crucial role in the nation's development, and that as chancellor she hopes to help the College continue to provide future leaders.

"I hope that this College will find ways to prepare all the students not only for higher education and careers, but most importantly for their role as citizens," she said. "Now the challenges of leadership today are as great as they were at our founding. And you know what? We all have to learn to be bridge builders."

O'Connor said that she was prepared for 21st-century challenges.

"The efforts call for sacrifice, sometimes emotional, sometimes financial, sometimes personal. Those who engage in public service

See O'CONNOR + page 3

Group circulates workers' petition



COURTESY GRAPHIC • ARAMARK

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
FLAT HAT ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Due to financial losses last October, College Dining Services reduced working hours and implemented a new split-shift schedule for employees at the Marketplace. Subsequently, overtime hours at the Marketplace were advertised to dining staff across the campus. The split-shift schedule was removed this semester, but Marketplace employees, students and local citizens are still angered over the change in hours and the ensuing advertisement. Attempts to unionize the dining staff are currently underway.

Sophomore Thom Silverstein, a member of the College's Tidewater Labor Support Committee, is currently petitioning the Student Assembly Senate to address the issue. Silverstein said that the advertisement was designed to draw staff with lower salaries to the Marketplace in order to save money. He added that this discriminated against senior Marketplace staff members who earned more money than most other employees.

"What [dining services] was trying to do, at least from our perspective, [was] to get more senior workers who have had residual pay increases ... to work less. They get less experienced workers [into] the Marketplace down at their starting salary ... to pick up more hours," Silverstein said. "This could be a difference to \$2.50 to \$3.00 an hour ... basically to try to [move in] people that they [could] pay less."

Director of Dining Services Phil DiBenedetto denied the charge. However, he acknowledged that hours were cut and that Dining Services tried to draw employees from the Center Court and the Commons

into the Marketplace. According to DiBenedetto, jobs were advertised because Dining Services had trouble filling positions.

"We did cut people's hours, and we did offer people to work at the Marketplace ... from everywhere, because [staff at the Marketplace] were calling out sick or calling up because they didn't like the hours we changed. It didn't have anything to do with whether they were high-paid or low-paid," he said.

Dibenedetto added that extra hours were listed to Marketplace employees before going to other dining locations.

According to the March 29 issue of the Virginia Gazette, Marketplace employees, who are employed through the College's food retailer, Aramark, confronted management about their cut hours being advertised to other workers. All full-time hours were then restored to the workers.

After the incident, local citizen Edith Heard, who unionized blue-collar workers in Williamsburg during the 1980s, worked with Silverstein and other College students to create a union for Dining Service employees.

"What I want to do, I want to unionize the workers there so they won't have to worry about their rights being infringed upon like they're doing," Heard said.

According to the Virginia Gazette, Heard's daughter is a former Marketplace employee who lost her job after she left work early due to a migraine headache.

The Gazette also said that Heard's original plan included a student-run petition, intended to contain five hundred student signatures, calling for the dissolution of the Aramark contract with the College. Silverstein said, however, that the petition has since changed, and he is now seeking a referendum from the SA that

See PETITION + page 3

Scofield presents new agenda to city

JAMES DAMON
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Yesterday, Student Assembly President Ryan Scofield listed student concerns at the Williamsburg City Council meeting.

Scofield shared plans for his second term with the council. He said that he and the council made "positive steps in opening lines of communication" in the past year, but he said there is still need for improvement.

"Some of the concerns of my student constituents, for whom I am excited to continue representing, include parking, housing and voting issues," Scofield said. "I'm confident we'll find a reasonable cooperative solution to these lingering student and city issues."

The council made no mention of March's acquisition of the property at

See CITY + page 4

SA inaugurates 22 new officers in Wren ceremony

KELLIE FENTON
THE FLAT HAT

The Student Assembly inaugurated 22 officers, including SA President junior Ryan Scofield and SA Vice President junior Amanda Norris, in a ceremony in the Sir Christopher Wren Building April 19. Class senators and officers took an oath in front of the Review Board Chair, pledging "to execute the office they have been elected to [and] to protect the Student Assembly."

While 29 students, including nine officers from each grade, in addition to Scofield and Norris, were meant to be inaugurated, seven did not attend the ceremony and were inaugurated at Tuesday's SA meeting, SA senate secretary Matt Beato said.

The senators and officers were sworn in before a crowd that included College President Gene Nichol, Vice President for Student Affairs

Sam Sadler, family and friends.

Newly inaugurated SA President junior Ryan Scofield delivered his inaugural address. He encouraged senators and class officers to show sincerity and support by making themselves available on a day-to-day basis and to listen sincerely to the students. Scofield and Vice President Amanda Norris said they believe strongly that "they were elected by the students to serve the students."

Sadler began the inauguration by expressing respect for the SA and acknowledging their efforts to take immediate responsibility in the past year concerning voting rights and sexual assault. He said he also was impressed with their ability to give the President solid, truthful advice.

"[I] look forward with great excitement of what the next year will bring," he said.

Nichol congratulated the new and old senators and officers on their election and for their efforts.

He encouraged the SA to present the College community with "positions of trust, character and honor."

He also gave advice to the student representatives on leadership and emphasized the importance of commitment to tough decision-making, coupled with the ability to find solutions that serve the good of the community.

He advised the newly-inaugurated officers "to act always in the long-term interests instead of short-term demands, act to bring distinct views together, commit to lifting people up instead of letting them fall and to foster and hone William and Mary's sense of community."

Nichol stated that the SA is heavily involved with the College community. He praised their responsibility in dealing with issues such as sexual assault.

These are "the small steps which will get larger," he said. "Students working collectively could be the best solution."



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT

Sophomore Sens. Matt Skibiak, Brett Phillips and Joe Luppino-Esposito are sworn in during a ceremony in Wren Chapel Sunday.

College mourns student

BY MEERA FICKLING
THE FLAT HAT

Junior Zachary James Vaughan was found dead outside Monroe Hall April 8. According to an e-mail sent to students April 8 by Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler, at approximately 5:50 a.m., Vaughan accidentally slipped off the roof of Monroe Hall.

He was an active member of Delta Phi, the African American Male Coalition,

See STUDENT + page 3

“Try to learn something about everything and everything about something.”

THOMAS H. HUXLEY
WWW.QUOTATIONSPAGE.COM

Inside this week's issue



A trio of musical freshmen will perform April 20 in a benefit concert for CareNet and Avalon.

See TRIO, page 7.



An alien plague infests the planet Earth in the gross-out horror movie “Slither,” but audiences are neither scared nor entertained.

See SLITHER, page 11.



Columnist Rachel Metz argues that the Senate's rejection of the anti-immigration bill is beneficial for the College and the country.

See DANGERS, page 5.



An in-depth review of administration procedures looks into methods of attracting student athletes to the Tribe.

See RECRUITING, page 15.



In case our Frequently Asked Questions page doesn't have an answer for your question, click Resources > Staff to e-mail sections or staffers. Members of The Flat Hat listed there will be happy to answer any concerns you may have.

See <http://flatthat.wm.edu/>

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The Flat Hat

‘Stabilitas et Fides’

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Letters to the Editor and Opinions columns are due at 5 p.m. Tuesday for publication the following Friday. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced, and must include the author's name, telephone number and any relevant titles or affiliations with campus or national groups. Letters may be no more than 300 words, columns may not be less than 500 words nor more than 700. Letters must be e-mailed to flhops@wm.edu.

The Flat Hat reserves the right to edit all material. Because of space limitations, The Flat Hat may not publish all submissions.

The Flat Hat Editorial Board meets weekly to discuss the position taken by editorials. Unsigned editorials are written by the Editor or a designated member of the Editorial Board. All Board editorials reflect the consensus of the Editorial Board. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only.

The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the section editor in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.

Beyond the 'Burg

♦ THOUSANDS MARCH AGAINST IMMIGRATION BILL IN HARTFORD

(U-WIRE) HARTFORD, CT — Thousands of demonstrators marched on the streets of downtown, demanding immigration reform and chanting “justice for all” Monday.

Demonstrators who gathered from across the state participated in just one of many rallies held nationwide, including the nation's capital, all to fight for immigration rights and protest against House bill HR4437. If passed, the bill would make illegal immigration a felony.

The hundreds of thousands of people who rallied nationwide Monday seek to pressure Congress to instead approve legislation that would grant legalization to the estimated 10.3 million undocumented immigrants believed to reside in the country, according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center.

Crowds holding a sea of American flags shouted, “No criminales, somos imigrantes,” or “We are not criminals, we are immigrants” in English.

“We are the future, we are here to stay,” the crowd chanted. Alina Zuniga, a member of the Pro-Immigrant Coalition and originally from Columbia, said the people who rallied Monday want fair treatment and equal rights. ...

But not everyone supported granting legalization to undocumented immigrants.

John Dignam, of 10 Marshall Street, said he supported the idea of immigrants in the country, but not the legalization of undocumented ones.

U.S. Representative John Larson (D-Conn.) spoke out to the large crowd of demonstrators in front of the state capital. ...

“There is no question about the fact that the system is broken, but it needs comprehensive reform,” Larson said. “There is no question that we have to stop the control of immigrants that are coming here illegally, but in the process, don't criminalize [people]. We are a better nation than that. We need to reach out and make sure that while we are strong on enforcement we also understand the value of work that these people bring every single day.”

— By Frances Morales, The Daily Campus (U. Connecticut)

— compiled by maxim lott

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday



High 82°
Low 63°

Saturday



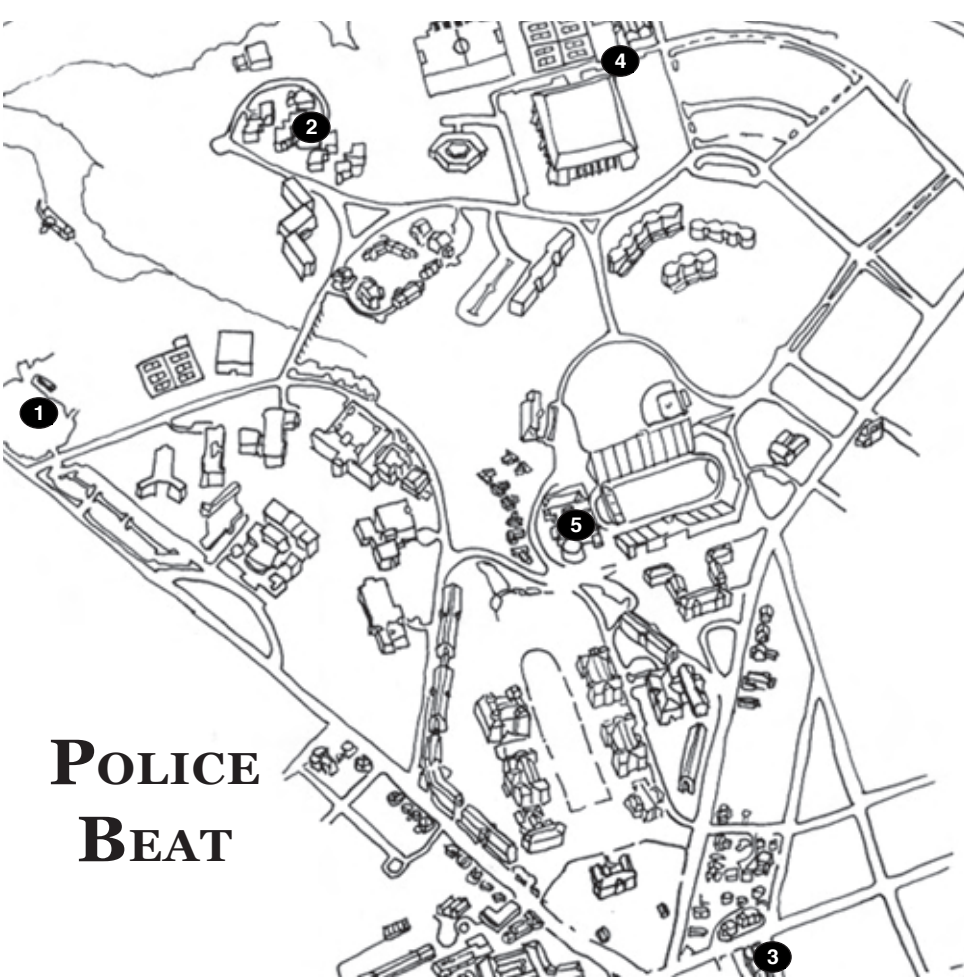
High 82°
Low 60°

Sunday



High 78°
Low 58°

Source: www.weather.com



POLICE BEAT

Tuesday, April 4 — A wallet was reportedly stolen from a vehicle parked in the Common Glory Parking Lot. It was valued at approximately \$230. **1**

Friday, April 7 — Two students were arrested, one for a DUI and possession of marijuana, the other for obstruction of justice. The students were driven to the Virginia

Peninsula Regional Jail. They complained en route that their handcuffs were too tight and the police car stopped temporarily. The students' car was towed.

Saturday, April 8 — Graffiti was discovered on a wall in the Spotswood dormitory. The damage was estimated at \$350. **2**

Monday, April 10 — A student reported an obscene and annoying phone call, in which the caller mentioned them by name.

— A student reported that her bike, worth approximately \$280, was stolen outside of Brown Hall. **3**

— A contractor reported that he was assaulted outside of William and Mary Hall by the Recreation Center construction site. **4**

— Headphones worth an estimated \$140 were reportedly stolen from a lounge in Goch Hall. **2**

— A student reported that his wallet had been stolen from his dorm room in Fauquier Hall, and that fraudulent use of his credit cards had followed. The loss was estimated at \$120. **2**

— A University Center supervisor called police about a suspicious white male in the lobby. The subject was reportedly sitting in the lobby talking to himself and drinking something from a brown paper bag. The caller said that the suspect was in his late 40s or early 50s, had grey hair, and wore a plaid shirt and blue jeans. Police arrested the man, who is from Earlysville, Va. for being drunk in public. **5**

— compiled by maxim lott

STREET BEAT :

How did Banner registration go for you?



I didn't have my PIN number, so I only got two of the classes I wanted, but it's my fault.

♦ Nick Stevens, freshman



It was actually the best time for me, I got all the classes I wanted.

♦ Margaret Schrack, freshman



I just yelled and cursed at the screen.

♦ Denisse De Leon, sophomore



Well, I'm a graduate student, so I just registered for my dissertation.

♦ Robert Painter, grad student

— photos and interviews by jonathan seiden



ALICE HAHN • THE FLAT HAT
Senate Chair senior Luther Lowe and Student Assembly Vice President Amanda Norris preside over a four-hour SA meeting Tuesday night in which a controversy rendered an election for a new senate chair illegitimate.

SA fails to elect chair after illegal secret ballot vote

By KATIE PHOTIADIS
THE FLAT HAT

The Student Assembly senate met for the first session of the 314th session Tuesday, holding elections for the senate chair and senate secretary positions, in which sophomore Sen. Joe Luppino-Esposito was elected senate chair by one vote. Immediately after the vote, however, two senators declared the election unconstitutional. Luppino-Esposito, junior Sen. Scott Fitzgerald and sophomore Sen. Brett Phillips ran for the position. Phillips left the race and said that he felt one of the two other candidates would do a better job as the senate chair, though he did not say who he would support. “There is a better candidate to lead us, and I hope you elect him tonight,” Phillips said. After Phillips’ announcement, the senate held a secret ballot vote in closed session, which Luppino-Esposito won 11-10. After the election, a number of senators left and the press and public were allowed back into the room. Minutes after Luppino-Esposito was elected senate chair, however, junior Sen. Victor Sulkowski and sophomore Sen. Shariff Tanious returned to the room, waving a laptop computer and claiming that the election was illegal. Sulkowski and Tanious said that, according to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, the election of senate chair cannot be voted by secret ballot. “It’s federal law, you cannot not like it,” Sulkowski said. Several members said they were displeased by the contestation of the election.

O’CONNOR

FROM PAGE 1

also open up themselves for a lot of public review, but if we focus our energy on sharing our ideas, on finding solutions and using what’s right with America to remedy what’s wrong with it, we can and we will make a difference.” O’Connor earned a standing ovation. The Ebony Expressions a cappella group then performed as the focus turned from investiture to inauguration. Virginia Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Lacy read Nichol the oath of office. Nichol then addressed the College community. “I am delighted, if daunted, to follow our new chancellor to the podium,” he said. “With a singular combination of courage and wisdom, she ennobled the essential exercise of judicial review. Our new chancellor will lift the character and fortunes of the College. And it is my surprising good fate to welcome a personal hero to our ranks.” He praised students, faculty and staff. He said that the students are among the most highly credentialed in the world, and that the professors “embrace a fusion of teaching and scholarship not replicated elsewhere.” But, he said, the College is unsatisfied. He outlined his dreams for the College’s future. He said the College needs to aggressively open its doors to become more racially and geographically diverse. He also said the College needs to continue its public mission. “Alone among the great publics, this College operates, at heart, as a small-scale, engaged, life-changing liberal arts program. Ever shall it be so,” he said. The ceremony ended with Nichol and O’Connor walking down the aisle, exiting at the back of the courtyard. They were followed by a procession that included representatives from 100 colleges and univer-

sities, including Oxford University, Harvard University and Yale University. A reception was then held in the front of the Wren Building following the ceremony. Refreshments were served, and students mingled with O’Connor and Nichol. At a press meeting later that day in the Dodge Room of Phi Beta Kappa Hall, O’Connor fielded questions from reporters. She said that in her retirement from the Supreme Court, she has two major goals she hopes to accomplish. First, she said she will work to prevent legislators from passing laws that would allow them to retaliate against judges for their decisions. Secondly, she said she wants to work to make civics and government classes a requirement in public high schools. “In the majority of high schools, it is no longer required that the students take government civics in order to graduate. I think that’s a mistake,” she said. “If we fail to educate high school students about our system of government, I don’t think we can survive very well as a nation.” She also said she plans to visit the College as much as her schedule allows. The press meeting concluded at 4 p.m., and she went directly to Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall for a question and answer session entitled, “A Conversation with Chancellor Sandra Day O’Connor,” which was moderated by Nichol. Nichol began by praising O’Connor as one of America’s most influential jurists. “All this flattery is likely to go to a chancellor’s head,” she said. Nichol combined questions submitted by students with questions of his own. “I’ve heard from a lot of students,” he said. “They’re anxious to hear why you chose [to become chancellor of the College], other than just the president begging and begging [you] to become our chancellor. We would love to hear the story.”

“I’m leaving,” senior Sen. Tom Kramer said. SA Vice President junior Amanda Norris also expressed dissatisfaction. “I want this to be slightly orderly, because this is getting ridiculous,” she said. Senate secretary freshman Matt Beato, who was elected to the position at the meeting by unanimous consent, said that he was displeased with the events.. “[The law] is as clearly written as the Ten Commandments — you don’t kill; you do not vote by secret ballot,” Sulkowski said about FOIA. In the midst of the debate, both Sulkowski and Senate Chair senior Luther Lowe declared that they were going to consult legal authorities. “Someone needs to file a lawsuit,” Lowe said. Lowe raised the motion to expel Norris from the room during the secretary and chair election discussions. The motion failed both times. “Luther, just shut up,” Norris said several times during the four-hour meeting. The senators decided to extend Lowe’s term as senate chair by one week and hold another election at their next meeting April 18. “Thanks for leaving me nothing, everybody,” Luppino-Esposito said. In the remainder of the meeting, the senate passed an opinion that supported College President Gene Nichol and his decision to champion student voting in Williamsburg. Members of the SA who could not attend their inauguration Sunday in the chapel of the Sir Christopher Wren Building were inaugurated at the meeting.

“Well that’s hard to say,” she said in response. “Except that your president must have caught me at a weak moment and at a time when I had not yet taken on a lot of new jobs after announcing my planned retirement. Timing is everything.” Near the end of the session, Nichol asked if she had any advice for students. “Think about public service. I did it because I had to,” she said. “That was a good thing, because I learned, first of all, how much more responsibility I had than my contemporaries and how much more satisfying my work was. You’re not going to be well-paid, and you may take a little abuse in the process, but you’re going to like it if you engage in public service. So I hope each of you as students have a chance to do something in life.”

College professors rank highly on popular website

Average Ratemyprofessor reviews by department		
Department	Quality (out of 5)	Easiness (out of 5)
Anthropology	3.11	2.98
Biology	3.51	2.59
Chemistry	3.7	3.05
Comp. Science	3.47	2.98
Economics	3.55	3.07
English	3.68	3.23
History	3.92	3.07
Government	3.82	3.05
Mathematics	3.44	3.17
Music	3.62	3.54
Philosophy	3.96	3.07
Physics	3.75	3.17
Psychology	3.53	3.57
Religion	4.18	2.75

By MAXIM LOTT
FLAT HAT INSIGHT EDITOR

Ratemyprofessor.com is a popular website where students can rate the quality of their instructors and look them up when registering for courses. According to Ratemyprofessor.com, their website contains over 4,200,000 ratings of professors and includes more than 5,000 colleges. The site also claims to have had over 9 million student visitors in its seven years of operation. The site is especially popular during course registration. Typically, students are interested in simply looking up individual professors with whom they might

PETITION

FROM PAGE 1

will directly address the question of worker’s rights. “With the petition that we’re going to start circulating very, very soon, it’s going to be a more strongly worded petition that addresses specific workers’ rights concerns with the hours and wages and benefits and, I guess, right to free association right down the line,” Silverstein said. Silverstein said he hopes to gain five hundred signatures for the petition and then present it with a referendum to the SA senate. “In that time where there was stress, the way they dealt with it so reduced worker morale ... that workers who really do care about their jobs ... had been driven to leave,” he said. A Marketplace employee, who asked to remain anonymous, echoed Silverstein’s statement. “The biggest problem [in the Marketplace] is the management,” she said. “Management doesn’t treat the employees right. They don’t talk to you; they talk at you.” She added that the Marketplace recently hired seven new workers and, due to allegedly poor management, all

STUDENT

FROM PAGE 1

the Young Democrats and Project Phoenix. “We are better, immeasurably better, because Zach was here,” President Gene Nichol wrote in an e-mail to students Monday.

Vaughan graduated from Beth-el High School in Hampton, Va. His parents arranged a memorial service last Wednesday at 2 p.m. They asked for memorial gifts to be donated to Williamsburg’s Avalon center, Delta Phi’s local charity. “Let us draw strength from our relationships as we confront the

take a course. The department averages shown include all current professors who have at least 5 ratings on the website. It is the score of the average professor in that department. However, there are problems with using the ratings. A department’s average depends largely on the type of student it attracts, not just the ability of the professors. Another argument is that students reward lenient teachers with good ratings. Ratemyprofessor.com also has “easiness” ratings, however, and they often do not correspond with quality. The religious studies department, for example, has the second lowest “easiness” rating, but the highest quality rating. Although it is safe to assume that the majority of ratings are from students who have taken a course with the professor, anyone can give a review. Selected student volunteers are supposed to maintain the appropriateness of the ratings, but as Ratemyprofessor.com admits, “it is not possible for us to verify which raters had which teachers, so always take the ratings with a grain of salt.” The number of College students who use the website is also notable. The English department has the most ratings, with almost 600 reviews and 38 professors listed. The results generally confirm the liberal arts reputation of the College — the three highest scoring departments are religious studies, philosophy and history. With an average quality rating of 4.18, the religious studies had the highest department rating. Professor Marc Lee Raphael, chair of religious studies, said that although he was not familiar with Ratemyprofessor.com, he knew that the faculty in the department “put students first in their professional lives ... we conduct continual informal discussions on how we can constantly improve our classroom goals. Each member of our department is hired because of her or his commitment to students, and we hope to foster a culture that leads to widespread student praise of our efforts.” Professors at the College generally received positive reviews, and all of the departments that The Flat Hat reviewed has a quality rating higher than three on a scale of one to five. Ratemyprofessor.com admits that the ratings on their site are not “statistically valid,” although they cite an article by a professor who found that ratings from the website matched very closely with official professor reviews at the University of Waterloo. Since the College does not release the official professor ratings conducted in classes, averages from Ratemyprofessor.com should at least serve as some indication of actual department quality.

but one have left. Associate Vice President for Administration Charles Maimone said that management has dealt with worker’s grievances appropriately in the past. He referenced an instance last semester when workers listed their grievances regarding hours and contacted their regional manager. “[A] group of employees at the Marketplace put together a list of the concerns that they had and ... embraced the schedule that many of the supervisors were able to put together [from those grievances],” Maimone said. “The most important group of individuals are the people who provide the service.” He added that the minimum wage for dining workers will likely be increased to nine dollars per hour next year, a \$0.75 increase. Grievances with management are not exclusive to the Marketplace. Two Commons employees who asked not to be identified said that problems with management increased this year. “[Management] doesn’t work along with the employees,” one worker said. Referring to the management, another employee said, “How can you do right, when you have a ‘do wrong’ mind?”

tragedy of the loss of one of our members,” Sadler wrote in the e-mail, a few hours after the tragedy. The Counseling Center is currently working to help students cope with the loss. Director Kelly Crace visited the Delta Phi house Saturday night, and counselors are available on a priority basis this week.

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PLEASE BE PREPARED TO SHOW YOUR STUDENT IDENTIFICATION!

Under the MICROSCOPE

♦ GENETICALLY ENGINEERED MICE CAN REGENERATE LOST TISSUE

By BECKY EASLEY
FLAT HAT SCIENCE COLUMNIST

A common method for identifying mice in a laboratory is to punch small holes in the ears. This process allows scientists to identify the mice that have been immunized or the ones that are on a specific diet. The procedure is relatively painless, and the hole remains open for the rest of the mouse's life.

When Dr. Ellen Heber-Katz used this method on her transgenic mice, however, she found that they healed naturally in a matter of days. Upon investigation, Heber-Katz learned that the transgenic mice used in her lab were actually regenerating tissue.

"It is known that if you cut off the digit tip in mice it always seems to come back; but if you cut any further, you get no growth," Heber-Katz said. "We did that in the [Murphey Roth's Large] mouse and there is a blastema [area of growth] that forms, there is DNA synthesis and cell proliferation, and we also think that maybe there is the beginnings of a joint that is formed. I must say that we have not seen the whole digit grow back."

According to the April 11 online edition of the BBC, these MRL transgenic mice are genetically designed for the study of the autoimmune disease Lupus. Lupus is commonly studied in laboratories because its cause is unknown. According to the Lupus Foundation of America, the disease is characterized by symptoms such as a malar rash, arthritis or neurologic disorders.

After discovering the regenerative abilities of MRL mice, Heber-Katz published an article based on her findings in the scientific journal, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. In her paper, she wrote that damaging the heart by using a cryoprobe to freeze the tissue induced scarring in normal mice.

In MRL mice, however, new tissue was regenerated so that the heart remained functional after injury. According to the August 2001 edition of Scientific American, 20 percent of cells proliferated (divided or regenerated) in MRL mice compared to 3 percent in normal mice.

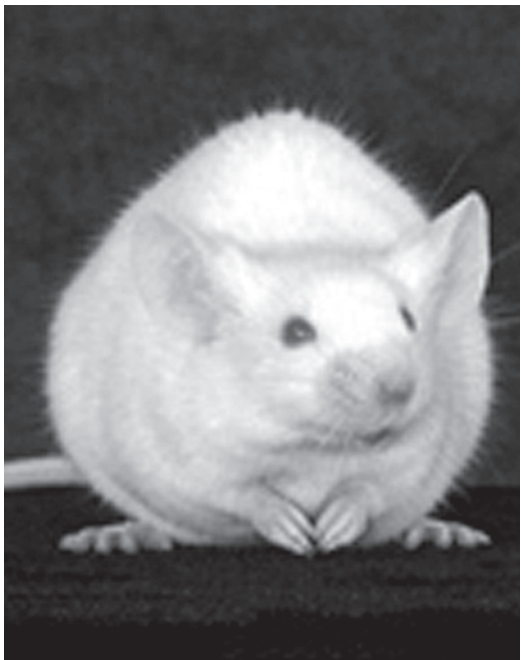
After this finding, the next step for the re-

searchers was to determine which genes could be enhancing this regeneration process.

Mapping the genes that are involved in the regeneration of organs showed that MRL mice have six loci on five different chromosomes that appear to control regeneration. According to the BBC, two genes have now been identified and are called mmp9 and mmp2.

In another experiment, the group found that they could transplant fetal liver stem cells from a MRL mouse into a normal mouse to prevent damage from injury to the heart. This experiment contains major implications for future transplants in humans that could correct internal injuries that would normally result in damaged tissue, the BBC reported. Heber-Katz's group was able to see spinal cord healing in MRC mice.

One major problem with these mice is that they have an autoimmune disease. If researchers can determine a way to isolate only the genes that are involved in regenerative ability, then new transgenic mice can be bred for use in further studies. If they succeed, this research could lead to future advances in tissue regeneration.



COURTESY PHOTO • BBC NEWS
Murphy Roth Large mice are able to regenerate lost tissue at a faster rate than other types of mice.

World Beat: France Youth labor law reversed



COURTESY PHOTO • LE MONDE.FR
French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin's popularity has dropped since the employment compromise.

By JOSHUA BARR
THE FLAT HAT

Wednesday, France's lower house of parliament approved a compromise youth labor law replacing previous legislation that sparked

voted 151-93 in favor of the plan. It now awaits approval from the Senate; however, the Senate will likely not rule on the bill until May, after the legislative break.

Chirac's Union for a Popular Movement party and the unions collaborated on a compromise that includes internships and training programs for underprivileged youth and financial incentives for young workers, ABC news reported. The original plan would have given employers the right to fire workers under the age of 26 during the first two years without cause.

According to the April 11 online edition of The New York Times, employment is a particularly sensitive topic with French youth. Because older employees make up the majority of the job market, young people have difficulty finding work.

plemented a new youth labor law, known as the First Employment Contract. However, the reforms provoked outrage across France, especially among middle-class students who feared the government was undermining their future job security.

Chirac and French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin have seen their popularity decrease sharply during the crisis. De Villepin championed the law in hopes of lowering the nation's 22 percent unemployment rate among French youth.

The public backlash has also decreased de Villepin's election hopes in France's 2007 presidential election. Wednesday, de Villepin conceded defeat, saying that he would find alternative methods of lowering youth unemployment.

SITUATION:

After months of protest from student activists and various labor unions, the French parliament approved a compromise youth labor law, replacing legislation that put limitations on young employees. The original law deemed that French employers could fire workers under the age of 26 during the first two years of employment. The act spurred riots and demonstrations throughout French suburbs, beginning last November. French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin supported the reversal in order to decrease the 22 percent unemployment rate among French youth. Many have seen his comments as an attempt to gain political capital before next year's presidential election. Because of public backlash and a decreasing approval rating, De Villepin's candidacy hopes appear to have diminished. French president Jacques Chirac's popularity has also decreased since the law's enactment. The reversal has been viewed as a victory for France's liberal political parties.

COURTESY GRAPHIC • FRENCH-MORTGAGE.COM

nation-wide protests, the April 12 online edition of ABC News reported. Student and union-led protests forced President Jacques Chirac to disband the law that allowed employers to fire young workers during the first two years of their employment.

Jean-Claude Mailly, leader of the leftist union Force Ouvriere, described the labor law as "dead and buried" and said that "the goals had been achieved" at last.

The April 12 edition of BBC News reported that the lower house

Even when they can, employers are reluctant to sign them to long-term contracts because of inexperience and high turnover rates among younger workers.

Opposition to the law reflects an entrenched sentiment among French people about losing their labor protection in a globalized world, The New York Times reported.

According to the BBC, frustration over high unemployment resulted in mass rioting last November. To help poor, urban teens find jobs, the French government im-

De Villepin said that the reversal was imperative in order to fulfill the needs of France's economy.

"I wanted to act fast on joblessness, because the dramatic situation and the despair of many young people made it vital," he said.

According to BBC, the reversal is a political victory for France's leftist political parties.

"It is a grand success for the young and an impressive victory for the unity of the unions," Socialist Party leader Francois Hollande said.

CITY

FROM PAGE 1

110 Harrison Avenue, or of any future property acquisitions.

"That is only one property; it's a one-time acquisition," Clyde Haulman, economics department chair and vice mayor, said after the meeting was over. "Whether other owners come forward or not, we don't know."

He said that the council has a desire to loan money for future renovations if they become available.

At its March meeting, the council loaned the Williamsburg Housing Authority \$300,000 for the purchase and renovation of a property at 110 Harrison Avenue.

Jim Griganis, director of the housing authority, said that the house would be renovated and put on the market for single-family occupancy in approximately 150 days.

The council also discussed Williamsburg's prohibition of vinyl siding in many residential and commercial properties near Colonial Williamsburg Council member Billy Scruggs said that the prohibition is an extreme view and asked that the council consider rezoning areas of the city for the use of vinyl siding.

After a discussion by the council, it was decided that too little was known about the material. The council voted by a 3-2 majority to request further information on the costs and permissible kinds of vinyl siding.

The council also discussed the issue of poor sidewalks along Richmond Road, portions of Griffin Ave. and portions of Newport Road. The council agreed to fix the "substandard" sidewalk that runs from the College Delly to Wawa.

City Manager Jackson Tuttle proposed legislation to address graffiti in Williamsburg. The city would give residents money for the purpose of removing graffiti themselves. If graffiti would not be removed in a timely fashion, the city would have the authority to go onto private property to remove the graffiti "at public expense."

"We need to do whatever can be done as soon as we can," Tuttle said. "Graffiti generates more graffiti."

The ordinance was unanimously approved.



Neil Young:
Heart of Gold (PG)
Fri., Apr. 14-Sun., Apr. 16
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.
Apr. 14, 15 screening room
(35 seats)

Coming Attraction

The White Countess (PG-13)
Sun., Apr. 16-Sun., Apr. 23
6:30 and 9 p.m.
Apr. 16-22 screening room (35 seats)

Live Performances

The Kimball Theatre and Playwrights
Premiere Theatre present
Winning Liberty Land:
An American
Musical Comedy About how
History is Made
Fri. and Sat., Apr. 14, 15, and
Apr. 21, 22 at 7:30 p.m.
General admission \$12,
Seniors/Students \$10

Penn High School,
Mishawaka, Ind. Presents
Songs of Americana
Sun., Apr. 23 at 3:30 p.m.
This event is free but tickets
are required

Williamsburg Regional
Library presents
2006 May Hill Arbuthnot
Honor Lecture
Featuring Newbery Award
Winner Russell Freedman
The Past Isn't the Past:
How History Speaks, and
What it Says to the Next
Generation
Fri., Apr. 28 at 7 p.m.
This event is free but tickets
are required

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OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

We got game

After the beautiful weather of this past week, many students’ attention is undoubtedly starting to turn from the lecture hall to the playing field. Whether it is taking a jog down DoG street or playing an intramural basketball game, many students like to unwind by working out. But for 10 percent of students on campus, playing sports is more than a fun diversion on sunny days in Williamsburg. For these students, sports were their ticket into the College and are their job while they are here. As readers will notice on page 15 of this issue, sports are the guiding force in student athletes’ college careers before they even set foot on campus, playing a crucial role in the application and admissions process.

Intercollegiate athletics have been an important part of College life since our first football game in 1894. Ideally, an athletics program should provide a world-class experience for our student athletes while benefitting the student body as a whole. So, how does the College’s athletic department score — are we more Mighty Ducks, or Bad News Bears?

When it comes to educating our student athletes, the College does a tremendous job. An NCAA report on Division I schools’ academic progress ranked the College fourth in the country behind three Ivy League schools, making us the highest-ranked scholarship school and highest-ranked public school of any type. Tribe athletes have a graduation rate of 87 percent, a full 25 points above the Division I-AA average of 62 percent.

While most people do not think of the Tribe as an athletic powerhouse, the College has been remarkably successful on the field as well as in the classroom. Teams from the College have captured more Colonial Athletic Association crowns than any other school in the conference. The football team’s run at the national championship in 2004 brought the school together like nothing else during any of our times here. When sports are done right, they can create school spirit, enriching the quality of life on campus and encouraging alumni support. It may sound a little hokey, but “Tribe Pride” is an important part of what the College is about.

However, when the College deals with the students who directly pay for the majority of athletics, there is room for improvement. According to the College’s Athletic Task Force, the law prohibits any state funding or tuition from being spent on athletics. About \$11.5 million, or 6.5 percent of the College’s total budget, is spent on intercollegiate athletics each year. A little less than half of this comes from ticket sales, donations and earnings from the endowment, but the rest, more than \$1,000 per student, comes from mandatory student athletic fees on top of tuition payments. As The Flat Hat reported in an Oct. 28, 2005 article, information about the athletics fee is included inside the General Fee paid by all students. This information is not broken down in the bill sent home to students, and although we would hesitate to call it “hidden,” the College certainly does not go out of its way to make this information available. We urge the administration to be more open with this data, by separating it from the General Fee and listing it on its own for all to see. Most students appreciate athletics and would probably be willing to happily pay the cost if it is spelled out to them, but to group it with unrelated items only engenders mistrust and suspicion.

For the foreseeable future, the College is probably more likely to be recognized for its biology department than its basketball team, and that is just fine by us. As College Athletic Director Terry Driscoll said in a Nov. 19, 2004 William and Mary News article, “They are students first and athletes second, and that concept is the cornerstone of what we try to accomplish here as a program.” We hope the College continues to hold its student athletes to some of the highest standards in the country, and will raise its own standards for transparency a little higher.

Editorial Board:

Joshua Pinkerton, *Editor-in-Chief*
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Per Hoel, *Business Manager* ♦ Andy Zahn, *News Editor*
Chase Johnson, *Variety Editor* ♦ Louis Malick, *Sports Editor*
Alice Hahn, *Reviews Editor* ♦ Jonathan Seiden, *Photography Editor*



Infectious spring fever

It’s a little hard to concentrate with thoughts of summer, beaches and Cambridge in my head. Time away from the stresses of school brings a variety of its own distractions, such as work, family and trying to spend time with the people you will leave behind when the semester comes to a close.

Yet, I’d rather think about the possibilities of change than Dr. Faustus and Russian verbs of motion and the 15-page sociology paper I have due.

I’ve decided I’ve diagnosed myself, my roommate and most of my friends with a severe case of Spring Fever.

We walk around without noticing who we’re walking by or where we’re walking. We have long lunches to avoid the slave-labor they call exam preparation. We go to lay out at Jamestown Beach and insist on making Target runs for important things like ... Easter candy.

The girl next door is singing opera again. She is talented, pleasantly sliding up and down scales in a lilting falsetto. But it does make it hard to concentrate in this little square of a room, separated only by paper walls.

The distractions to be found in such a small space far exceed those of a bigger one — all the close clutter boxing you in to one point. The closeness of phone and always-enticing bed, along with the season, make it somewhat difficult to focus.

That is one thing I look forward to — reclaim-

ing something of my own, old space back home.

It’s getting closer to that time of year — when people are separated from one another by graduation, new jobs, different states, different schools. We go back to where we came from.

It’s a strange thing to think about, this back-and-forth movement between two worlds. Sometimes home is a microcosm of its own, away from school and close friends and roommates.

Things work differently in this world. We are still children in our parents’ home. We go back to old friends and old places that we never really forgot about, but things that just became a little less relevant to life for a little while.

Some of us make summer plans — to travel, to work, to move on. It’s easier to cut ties when you can’t see who’s on the other end, and leaving someone is kind of like that. Once you get to the new place, time helps you along and the pictures don’t leave but they lessen, fade a little.

I love change. The challenges of the unknown and the survival and conquering of it. So I look to the summer without apprehension, despite the money that needs to be earned and the responsibilities of being in my parent’s house once again. Everyone grows a little in the summer because it’s a time on your own terms spent with people of your own choice. Creating summer stories and coming back to school feeling a little older and new.

My brain could certainly use the break.

Ashley Braun is a sophomore at the College. Her views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

Letters to the Editor

Public education a necessity

To the Editor:

In the April 7 issue, Daniel Rounds, ’04, J.D. ’07, commented on a letter I sent to The Flat Hat on March 31. In his article, “The private good,” the columnist criticizes my “freshman naivety,” while expressing his support for privatizing this remarkable institution.

My remark about accepting only in-state students was meant as a hyperbolic rhetorical question. Rounds took the comment literally and out of context.

The columnist rehashes Meese’s argument, saying that privatization would produce a better College. If this is true, then what happened to the University of Richmond? By the columnist’s and Meese’s definition, it has better and more diverse students, faculty and staff. This is simply not the case; University of Richmond cannot hold a candle to the College’s beacon of stellar proportions.

In Chancellor O’Connor’s remarks last Friday, she talked about “building bridges” to fix the problems facing modern America. Under-funded public education programs pose a canyon-sized gap that only high-caliber institutions can bridge. Without extraordinary public institutions like ours, who would set the example for others? O’Connor has also said, “We pay a price when we deprive [people] of the exposure to the ... education they need to make them good citizens.”

If “America’s alma mater” were to succumb to privatization, other institutions would surrender in their fight, and the fundamental base of public education would begin to crumble.

Yes, the College has problems. Yes, I would love it if we could be as diverse as possible and admit an exact 50-50 mix of in- and out-of-state students. But privatization embodies failure – failure of the education system. As Americans, failure of the essential right to a low-cost, public education is something we must work to prevent. The first step is remaining a publicly funded institution, even in the face of insurmountable difficulty.

—Daniel Bracey, ’09

Public cost-effectiveness

To the Editor:

In regard to Daniel Rounds’, ’04, J.D. ’07, April 7 column, I just want to remind him that there are other private schools with amazing histories that students could attend. If the College was in your state and private tuition was not possible for your family, I think you’d

have a different perspective. If that’s what you want, go to a school in your own state and pay your money. For the rest of us, it’s important to be able to go to a small school like this and not have to ruin our financial futures to do it.

—Zinnia Rocha, ’07

Journalistic integrity questioned

To the Editor:

Katie Koestner ’94 is a very powerful speaker with an important message to share. When I was a student, I listened to her speak in the Sunken Gardens and appreciated her willingness to share the intimate details of her personal life in an effort to help others at her alma mater and beyond. In my judgment, her words have value despite the fact that the details of the “the worst night of [her] life” will forever be the subject of dispute and uncertainty, as is often inevitably the case.

The fact that Koestner and her remarks are deserving of respect and attention does not relieve The Flat Hat of its journalistic obligation to be cautious about what it chooses to report as fact. The headline, “Rape victim alum keynotes Sexual Assault Week,” and the ensuing description of her classmate as a “rapist” display a blatant disregard for fairness and objectivity in reporting. By using such definitive language, the newspaper tarnishes the name of a College graduate at the same time as it erodes its own reputation for reliability.

“Rape” is a very powerful word with a precise meaning defined in the Virginia Code (§18.2-61). I would invite readers to make their own judgment about whether the fact that no criminal charges were ever brought forward is an important part of this story that should have been mentioned in the article. It was not.

Additionally, the article trumpets in the lead paragraph that Katie Koestner’s “date rape was detailed in Time magazine.” A cursory look at the June 3, 1991 Time article would have revealed the following sentence: “Katie Koestner was a virgin when she was allegedly raped by a student she had been dating at William and Mary College.” [emphasis added]

Journalists have a heavy responsibility in our society to seek truth and to report it. That burden includes the obligation to exercise care and to resist the temptation to define the truth when it is unknown or unknowable. In my view, The Flat Hat displayed a reckless disregard for that important duty in this case.

—Ben Taylor, ’97, J.D. ’01

Dangers of immigration reform

Late last week, the U.S. Senate did something good for the College. Specifically, they side-tracked the anti-immigration Senate bill 2454.

Many students probably do not realize how the 41 Democrats, 20 Republicans and one independent who voted against the bill in Washington affect us here at the College. A closer look at this bill, however, reveals that it would negatively impact students who are U.S. citizens but have family members who are not, the tourism industry and therefore the availability of the retail jobs held by many students, ease of international study and public health.

Nearly 70 percent of the children of undocumented immigrants are citizens of the United States. Any legislation that affects unauthorized immigrants, then, has a much wider affect on U.S. families.

As the College becomes increasingly representative of Virginia as a whole, young U.S. citizens with the wit and the will to flourish at the College may be unable to do so because they have to support siblings or parents who cannot find a job in their countries of birth and are not able to remain in the United States.

Annoying as the hordes of tourists who visit Williamsburg can be, the fact is that the more of them there are, the more jobs are available to the College students who need income to pay for necessities such as textbooks, printing bills, student health center fees and Wawa. Anything that hurts the tourism industry therefore hurts students at the College.

Among unauthorized immigrants to the United States, 18 percent work in leisure and hospitality, 13 percent work in hotels and 10 percent work in food service. Hotels and restaurants depend on these workers — nationwide, 22 percent of maids and housekeepers, 24 percent of dishwashers and 12 percent of janitors and building cleaners

are unauthorized immigrants. If these workers were not in Williamsburg year-round, the tourism industry could not thrive and students would not be able to have seasonal jobs.

Despite the impression that may have been given in the preceding paragraph, not all unauthorized immigrants are service workers.

A full 15 percent of unauthorized immigrants have a bachelor’s degree or more and an additional 10 percent have some college education. Many of these people entered the United States legally on student visas and have had to face bureaucratic hurdles since then.

International students at the College who are interested in attending graduate school in the United States risk entering this category when they must respond to schools before they hear back about their visa status.

Both these members of the College community and potential international students are likely to have a harder time offering their unique perspectives to the College if the immigration reforms outlined in Senate bill 2454 are passed.

Furthermore, other countries are likely to respond to the United States barring their young people from studying here by making it harder for U.S. citizens to study abroad, a response that would clearly have a negative impact on the experience of many College students.

Senate bill 2454 would require medical and social service workers to check the legal status of people in need before offering help. Given the thousands of hours College students volunteer, it is likely that many students would face moral dilemmas if this bill were made into law.

Thankfully, 62 percent of the Senate acknowledged the problems outlined above and side-railed Senate bill 2454. Those of us in the College community who may not have paid much attention to the controversy over this bill should remember to keep aware of the legislation affecting our lives.

Rachel Metz is a senior at the College. Her views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.



Rachel Metz

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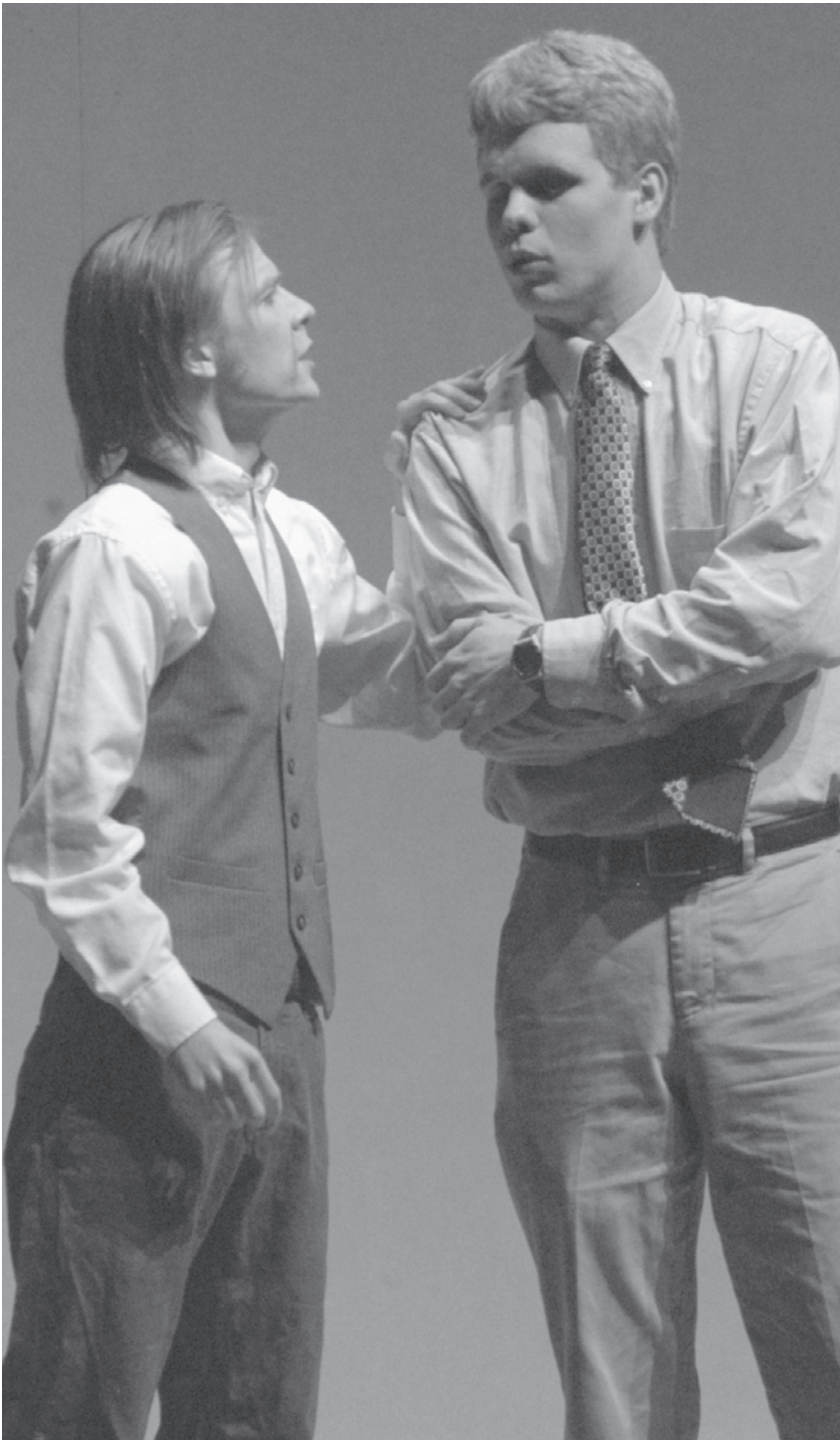
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PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 



This well-traveled anthropology major reflects on his time at the College. See **THAT GUY**, page 9.

Theater group to perform shrewd comedy



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT
Shakespeare in the Dark performs “*The Taming of the Shrew*” through Sunday.

BY ALEX ELY
FLAT HAT ASST. VARIETY EDITOR

Forced marriages, drunken fools turned to lords and overbearing fathers will all be on display this weekend in the University Center’s Commonwealth Auditorium as campus theater group Shakespeare in the Dark performs their spring comedy “The Taming of the Shrew.” The weekend’s shows include 8 p.m. curtain draws tonight and tomorrow night, as well as a 2 p.m. matinee performance on Sunday.

Shakespeare in the Dark is the same club that brought “Twelfth Night” to the stage last spring, and “Titus Andronicus” last fall. The performances and the club are run entirely by students.

“The trend has been tragedy in the fall and comedy in the spring,” director sophomore Steven Koernig said. “‘The Taming of the Shrew’ is a very fun play. It’s extremely controversial because a lot of people overlook the love story and claim it’s misogynistic. It’s technically a romantic comedy.”

While Koernig conceded that the play is “not one of Shakespeare’s best,” the subject matter, plot and characters will be familiar to many students because the work was used as a basis for the 1999 teen comedy “10 Things I Hate About You.”

The play is set in the Italian city of Padua, where the young Lucentio falls head-over-heels in love with Bianca, a beautiful maiden portrayed by freshman Abigail Fine. Unfortunately for Lucentio, played by freshman Michael Johnson, Bianca’s father has stipulated that she cannot marry until her wild, untamed older sister, Kate, who will be played by junior Alexandre Matthews, does. Lucentio, by no means discouraged, enlists the help of the rash, yet humorous Petruccio (freshman Thomas Baumgardner) who wants

to get married more than anything else. The result is a complex set of interactions and between the characters, which the cast hopes will provide as much entertainment for the audience as it does for the performers.

Matthews said she was eager to begin the weekend’s performances. She is especially excited about playing the role of the shrew.

“I really love Shakespeare and especially Kate; she is just so witty and quick,” she said.

Matthews has the unique advantage among the cast of being a native of Shakespeare’s England.

“It’s a really great accomplishment for the show to have a real English accent,” Koernig said. “I was worried that other people would adopt accents, but if anyone does it’s just a dramatic one for their character and it makes the show that much funnier.”

Koernig first became interested in Shakespeare in high school, and is impressed with the increased popularity of Shakespeare in the Dark in recent years.

“Considering the College’s history, we’re a pretty new club,” he said. “Every year we get more people involved. No matter what, they all bring something. You don’t have to be a senior theater major.”

Indeed, there has been marked involvement by freshmen, particularly in the lead roles. “The freshmen this year were really great,” Koernig said. “We don’t base it on experience when we choose the parts.”

Regardless of age, experience or accents — faux or real — Shakespeare in the Dark emphasizes the group dynamic. When selecting a performance, group members propose ideas and whoever’s show is chosen ends up being the direc-

See SHREWD + page 9



COURTESY PHOTO • LIVEPOETS.COM

Slam poet to lay down flow at Lodge 1

BY JOHN BRAME
THE FLAT HAT

Mike McGee, the champion of the 2006 Independent World Poetry Slam, is coming to campus to perform tomorrow. McGee’s performance will be part of an open-mic poetry event that will also feature student performers. The show is free and starts at 9 p.m. in Lodge 1.

McGee is a self-described and spoken-word artist. He also weaves stand-up comedy into his slam performances. Though slam poetry defies hard definitions, online encyclopedia Wikipedia.org calls it a type of performance poetry, featuring hip-hop-style delivery.

“What makes slam different from ‘regular’ poetry is that it is meant to be performed,” freshman Chris Peterson, who helped bring McGee to campus, said. “Good [slam poetry] incorporates the rhythm of hip-hop with the images of classical poetry; the lyrics are up to the author.”

McGee said he first got into spoken-word performance in 1998 in San Jose, Calif. “My good friend and fellow poet, Geoff Trenchard, pushed me and ultimately convinced me to try out stand-up comedy at a cafe downtown where he’d been performing poetry,” McGee said. “My stand-up evolved thanks to the inspiring work of countless poets in the San Francisco Bay area. Then the open mic became a poetry slam and eventually split off into its own separate event.”

Slam poets regularly converge for intense competitions known as “slams.” Audiences primarily comprised of the young, the hip, and, more and more, the well-educated rate the performers based on style and originality. Poets often compete tournament-style — those with the highest scores progress, while the others are eliminated.

Tomorrow’s event, hosted by the University Center Activities Board, will be open-mic, rather than a poetry slam. McGee is expected to perform for one-and-one-half to two hours. Students who want to guarantee themselves a spot on the performance list should e-mail UCAB intern freshman David Gordon at drgord@wm.edu.

“If you like stand-up comics, or if you like poetry, you will love Mike McGee,” Gordon said. “He shares hilarious ideas and stories in an innovative speaking style you just have to experience.”

Since his career started in 1998, McGee has become well-renowned as a spoken-word artist. Before winning the Independent World Poetry Slam Championship in 2006, McGee was the National Poetry Slam Individual Grand Champion in 2003. In 2005, McGee performed on the HBO show “Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry Jam.”

“My goal is always to let the audience into my heart and head a little more with each performance,” McGee said.

See SLAM + page 8

Freshman trio strings together Green Day, classical

BY ELIZABETH COLE
THE FLAT HAT

A new band is turning heads on campus. String Theory, fresh off a performance at last Thursday’s Homebrew, is preparing for its final concert of the year April 20 at 7:00 p.m. in Andrews Hall room 101.

String Theory is comprised of freshmen Fuad Bohsali playing cello, Raymond Lai playing violin and electric violin and Daniel Paris playing guitar and singing lead vocals. All three are residents of Dupont Hall. The band formed after the three came together for informal jam sessions midway into the fall semester.

Inspired by the violin and guitar pairings of the mainstream bands Yellowcard and Green Day, the boys experimented with cover songs of already-popular arrangements. Eventually they decided to authenticate the band by naming themselves String Theory, alluding to the complex physics theory of the same name. As complicated as the theory is, the appeal of the band is simple — they describe their sound as “an acoustic feel with classical undertones.”

Lai concedes, however, that their music is “not as intricate as classical.”

Ideally the members aspire to become a full band, complete with a drummer and a bass player. For now, though, they are content performing mostly cover songs, often arranging them for their unique

instrumentation.

Adapting popular music to their atypical group can prove challenging. Paris explained that the cello typically assumes the bass line, the violin takes the lead and the guitar covers most of the chord progressions.

The band said that they enjoy transferring songs not meant for string instruments by studying the soprano-alto-tenor-bass arrangements. Thus far String Theory has 10 songs mastered, including an original composition called “Untitled.” Other songs fans can expect to hear at their April 20 concert include Green Day’s “Time of Your Life,” “Hands Down” by Dashboard Confessional, “Believe” by Yellowcard and a traditional favorite, the College’s Alma Mater.



COURTESY PHOTO • STRING THEORY
[FROM LEFT] Freshmen Raymond Lai, Daniel Paris and Fuad Bohsali play Homebrew.

Schedules full of schoolwork and other activities restrict the amount of time String Theory can spend practicing. Between orchestra, fraternity commitments, a cappella groups and rigorous pre-med courses, the bandmates’ schedules are more than hectic. “We work on the fly and just figure out what we like. Then we play it,” Bohsali said.

Still, continued efforts have reaped rewards. After an audition, the band was selected by the University Center Activities Board to play before a packed crowd at Homebrew in Lodge 1 last Thursday night. The show demonstrated the band’s continued evolution from its debut at a Dupont Hall Christmas party to a winter break traveling tour of Northern Virginia schools to a Valentine’s Day concert and its peak

performance thus far at Homebrew.

“Honestly, from the start I never saw us coming this far with our music and establishing a growing fan base. It truly has been a wonderful ride from day one,” Lai said.

Paris has a more ambitious outlook, and said he’d like the band to stay together “until we win a Grammy and retire in the String Theory mansion.”

The band is in the process of recording an album. They have a live recording of their Homebrew performance and indicated the basement of Swem Library has a recording facility they will utilize.

String Theory’s popularity has blossomed from a freshman fan base in Dupont Hall to admirers all over campus. A Facebook.com club of devotees and bumper stickers are both indications of String Theory’s campus presence. With or without the appreciation of their peers, the guys reveal that their love for music is their true motivation.

“Three good friends get together and jam. Then we learn what we did. And we make it sound good. And we play it for people. That’s String Theory,” Bohsali said.

String Theory will perform April 20 along with Passing Notes as a part of “In Support of Women: A Benefit Concert for Women in Need.” There is a suggested donation of \$3, and proceeds go to local charities CareNet and Avalon.

To contact the band, e-mail stringtheory@gmail.com.

More than rocking matching sweatsuits, tourists make ‘Burg great

CONFUSION CORNER



Lauren Bell

I know a lot of people complain about living in Williamsburg — “It’s too small,” the professors say. “There’s nothing to do,” the students whine. “Why are all these people in front of me at the Cheese Shop when all I want to do is to grab some bread ends and get out of here?” your inner monologue screams, while you gleefully imagine using your tiny plastic cheese knife to cut a bloody swath through the frumpy, slack-jawed, matching-T-shirt-wearing tour group.

What these irritable (and strangely violent) students don’t realize is that old tourist couples with matching sweat suits are responsible for most of the great things about Williamsburg (and yes, you embittered moaners, there are some great things about the ‘Burg). This town caters to the tourists. It’s made for them, not for college students. Even though we’ve been here since 1693, and the tourists are a fairly recent addition, we still

shouldn’t be too bitter about the favoritism garnered by first grade classes and retirees. Tourists bring a lot to Williamsburg that students just don’t have the means to attract. Most tourists have a higher income and a higher standard of living than the average college student. If this town were made for college students, it would be more affordable, but lacking in the snootiness held dear by both rich old ladies and the surprisingly high numbers of prep-tastic students who grace our campus.

For example, think about the food choices. There are three very different styles of cuisine that exist in the gourmand’s fantasy that is Williamsburg: school food, delly-style/Wawa/fast food and tourist food. When a student is looking for a real treat, the Cheese Shop, Aromas, the Trellis and other locales gladly provide \$8 sandwiches and desserts bigger than your head. Generally, students only get

to eat at these places for special occasions (i.e. someone else is paying). These places can only stay alive with a little help from tourists, so next time you’re enjoying your \$4 white chocolate mocha with soy from Aromas, try not to make snide remarks about that guy taking his 43rd picture of the colonials.

Another great thing about living in a tourist town is the pure entertainment value. Tourists are like that nerdy younger cousin with the big glasses and the cowlick who always wants to talk to you about bugs — they’re such goobers you have to love them. You have to admit, a group of 30 people wearing matching neon windbreakers is funny.

Everyone has at least one great tourist story, when these strangers to our town did something so ridiculous or demented that your irrational hatred of them went away for that

one moment, and you just had to laugh.

An excellent viewing opportunity for the bizarre world of tourism is any sort of shopping area: Merchants Square, the outlets, Jamestown Pie Company (hey, you can buy all the Polo shirts you want, but I’m going for the cobbler). Even with New Town doing its darndest to attract students, shopping around here is still mostly designed for tourists or for rich visiting parents. Do you really think J. Crew put a store out in the middle of nowhere for a handful of college students?

While most of us can’t actually afford the pricey little boutiques in CW, it sure is fun to look. I like to go into Binns every once in a while and “ooh” and “ahh” at the shiny things while frosty-coiffed salesladies follow me around. I know they are actually just trying to make sure I don’t steal anything (even though

See TOURISTS + page 8

Variety Calendar

Highlights of the week

— compiled by *stephen knapp*

‘On the Verge’

♦ Come see the Second Season production of “On the Verge or the Geography of Yearning.” The show will play tonight at 8 p.m. and tomorrow at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the studio theatre in Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall. A \$1 donation is requested at the door.

To have an event printed in the Variety Calendar, e-mail fhvrt@wm.edu before 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Area concerts

♦ Tonight, **Poison the Well** will play at the Norva in Norfolk. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12. **Jackass Flats** will also play tonight at 7 p.m. in Richmond at the Cary Street Cafe. Tickets are \$7. **U-Turn** will play at Aromas Coffeeshop at 8 p.m. tonight. Admission is free. **11th House** will also play tomorrow at 9 p.m. at Emilio’s in Richmond. Doors open at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$5. **Sun Dried Opossum** will play tomorrow at 9 p.m. at the Jewish Mother in Virginia Beach. Tickets are \$5. **The Castle** will play at Paul’s Deli at 10:30 p.m. April 18. Admission is \$1 at the door. **The Grove** will also play April 18 at 10:30 p.m. at the Cary Street Cafe in Richmond. Tickets are \$5. Finally, the **Black Eyed Peas** will play at Scope in Norfolk on April 19. The show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35. Parking is available at the venue for \$4.



Hulabaloo

By Nate Loehrke

Horoscopes

Aries: March 21 - April 19

You’ll find that switchblades are sweet, especially when you throw one at the Moonbounce all those 4th graders were jumping on.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20

You’ll change your mind about how little children are cute and innocent when an 8-year old “accidentally” uses your credit card to buy Micro Machines.

Gemini: May 21- June 21

You will come up with your best scam ever this week, but you will get angry when you realize all your ideas are derived from Beverly Hills Cop 2.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Your forgetfulness will catch up to you this week when you realize that you forgot to turn the stove off on a hot air balloon in Lithuania.

Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22

While some people may think it is still fun to play games such as Life, Risk, football or hop-scotch, you will stick to the one you love — Russian roulette.

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You will experience instant relief after you drink a gallon of milk and then eat 100 Tums tablets. The relief is when you throw up.

Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Singing is not your forte, but take a tip from Bart Simpson and learn the HMS Pinafore by heart, just in case it comes up.

Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You will be paid vast amounts of money this week to do what you’ve always wanted to — BASE jump off the Empire State building into a pool of Jell-O.

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Sagi-monster, being a pyromaniac was cool back in 7th grade, and it’s still cool. What I’m trying to say is, let’s light stuff on fire.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

You’ve always believed in keeping the Earth clean and loving Mother Nature, but you’ll never forgive that bitch for spawning prickly bushes.

Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Although your friends tell you that if you love something you should let it go, it probably wasn’t a good idea to let your cat go off a 10-story building.

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20

It’s almost the end of the year, exams are coming up and people are graduating, but keep this in mind — those fish are totally 69-ing.

..... compiled by *stephen knapp*

Left Brain/Right Brain

Rebus Puzzles

BIRD

issue issue issue issue
issue issue issue issue
issue issue

ABCDEF GHIJMO
PQRSTU VWXYZ

____it

DAYDAYOUT

can can

1 knows

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i o h n s

calm storm

ICE³

Directions: A rebus is a picture representation of a name, word or phrase. Each rebus puzzle above portrays a common word or phrase. Can you guess the familiar expression that each brainteaser represents?
Source: niehs.nih.gov

Answers: Big bird; Tennis shoes; Missing link; Blanket; Day in, day out; Toucan; Won by a nose; Free for all; Banana split; Long johns; Ice cube

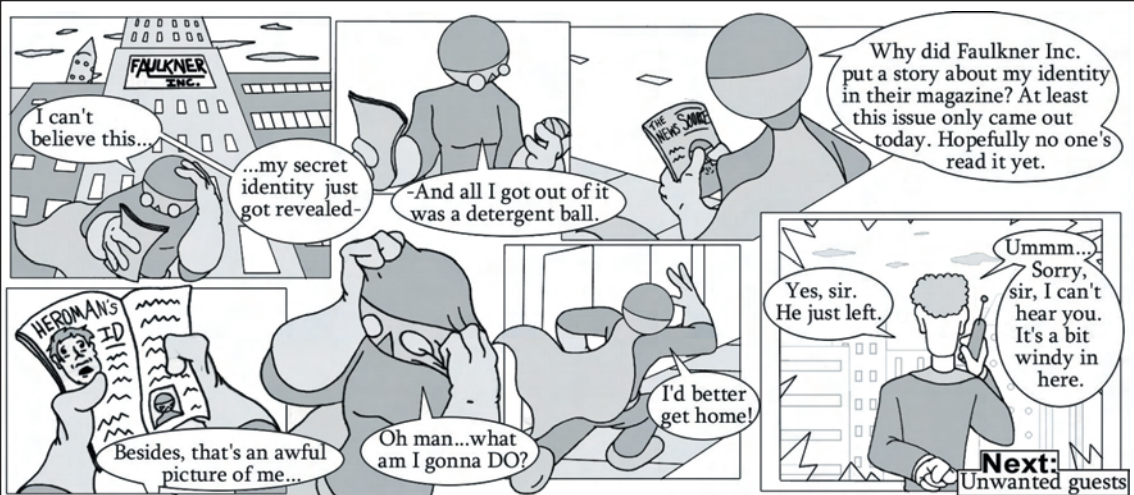
Sudoku

5			4		6	9	7
8				2		4	
		9	5		3	1	8
		1	4	3			7
			7		9		
	7			6	5	4	
1		3	2		4	7	
	2		9				4
6	9	4		1			5

Last Week’s Solution

4	7	8	9	2	1	6	3	5
1	2	6	3	5	7	9	8	4
3	5	9	4	8	6	2	7	1
2	1	4	7	9	8	3	5	6
6	8	5	2	1	3	7	4	9
9	3	7	6	4	5	8	1	2
8	4	2	1	7	9	5	6	3
5	9	3	8	6	4	1	2	7
7	6	1	5	3	2	4	9	8

Directions: Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each three-by-three block contain all of the digits 1 through 9.
Source: krazydad.com



Heroman

By Thomas Baumgardner



Knowing Jack

By Mika G. Shannon

TOURISTS

FROM PAGE 7

I try to only go in when wearing my best argyle sweater, but I do enjoy the attention.
One of these lovely Chanel-wearing ladies once told me flat out, “I don’t think you want to be in here.” Ever the polite customer, I agreed and then proceeded to run upstairs to play with the dresses. I don’t think she appreciated that very much, but she didn’t try to physi-

cally extract me from the store. Lucky for her — I still had my Cheese Shop knife and was willing to fight for my right to chifton.
So yes, they create 40-minute lines at Aromas, and yes, they ask us asinine questions while they wander around our campus, but tourists help make your college experience what it is, for better and for worse. Go on and laugh at them, but please refrain from attacking them.
Lauren Bell is a Confusion Corner columnist for The Flat Hat. She always carries an extra Cheese Shop knife, just in case ...

SLAM

FROM PAGE 7

“I rather enjoy connecting with an audience. The connection I’m looking for — which I believe most audiences are secretly looking for — is rarely ever found in mere stand-up comedy. I feel as though the human that I am comes across much clearer on stage through wit, reason, pain, laughter and joy.”
McGee joined with Shane Koyczan in 2003 to form the poetry group Tons of Fun University. Koyczan is the 2000 National Poetry Slam Indy Champion. In 2004 TOFU gained its third member, C.R. Avery, who is known for his beat box abilities in addition to his poetry. Koyczan and Avery are both from Vancouver, British Columbia, according to McGee’s website, and the three have performed across Canada.
“[McGee’s specific talent is] his ability to juxta-

pose poignancy and humor within his body of work, indeed, sometimes within the same poem,” Peterson said. “While other poets specialize in obtuse allusion or a capella rhyme, Mike speaks of our daily experiences beautifully and renders the mundane anything but.”
Most of McGee’s themes are self-focused.
“That may seem self-centered, but there is no other subject I know more about,” he said. “I have learned that for every poem I’ve heard from other poets where the subject of the poem was themselves, I learned a little bit more about myself.”
McGee says that through focusing on his own life, he hopes to connect to the lives of his audience.
“At face value, my themes might seem a bit too ‘me,’ but I’m trying to get the audience to think about themselves in the long run.”
To learn more about slam poetry, McGee recommends www.poetryslam.com. McGee’s website, www.mikemcgee.net, also contains a bio and sample poems.

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By Elizabeth Cole
The Flat Hat

That Guy: Nick Lembo

Nick Lembo is a senior anthropology major at the College. He has been a brother in the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity for four years. Last year he studied abroad in Nepal and extended his travels to Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. Nick shares his thoughts on travel, fraternity and being a student of anthropology.

Why did you choose a study abroad program beyond the College's offerings? How did you find out about the program?

I just really wanted to go to Nepal. I Googled "Nepal" and "study abroad" [and] the University of California, Santa Barbara program was the third search listed. About 10 other students and I, led by six Sherpa guides and a UC Santa Barbara professor, spent 10 weeks studying species diversity at the layers of the Himalaya Mountains. From that group I met up with another guy, with whom I traveled for three months more.

You are a four-year brother of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, and you've served as president for the past year. How has that experience been? How will the brotherhood be affected by the loss of housing next year?

I pledged in the fall of my freshman year. While in Cambodia last spring I received an e-mail informing me that I had been elected as the president of the fraternity. I was surprised, but my tenure was fun. Our pledges this year are a solid group of guys. I have faith in them that next year's rush will not be affected by our loss of campus housing.

What made you decide to be an anthropology major? Was it one class or experience in particular?

I've always wanted to do archaeology for as long as I can remember ... I was the kid digging up my backyard looking for dinosaur bones.

What opportunities would you recommend to fellow anthropology majors?

A friend who I met while traveling introduced me to the Student Conservation Association. The organization is great for potential applied biology, environmental science and anthropology majors,

because it offers internship opportunities that are hard to come by in the field of science. To receive membership in the SCA, you apply, write an essay and pay lifetime dues of \$25. You can choose from numerous internships, and the organization will provide for housing, a food stipend and cost of relocation. Through the SCA, I spent last summer working for the Park Service in Alaska. It was amazing.

Has there been any professor that had a particular impact on your time at the College?

Joe Dye in the art history department is one of the smartest and most genuine people I've ever met. His classes are stimulating, and he's a great guy. Brad Weiss in the anthropology department is another great professor ... just a really smart guy with a lot of insight and advice to offer.

If you could change one thing about the College, what would it be and why?

The lack of social outlets on this campus has rapidly declined in four years, and I think that people on this campus don't even really notice. Look around, people, we're here for four years ... enjoy it.

What will you miss the most when you leave the College?

College is a fantasy land. I am going to miss living with 30 of my best friends and just causing general mayhem for no apparent reason, other than I could.

What plans do you have for after graduation?

I'm going back to India in January with two friends to travel for about six months and see a part of the world that not only interests me, but is shaping the future of our world. I'm going to continue to travel, most likely through the Middle East and see what happens. Really just wandering.

[After I] take a year off, [I want to] apply to graduate schools for anthropology. Ideally, I'd like to receive my Ph.D. then possibly work in a museum, either in America or abroad. As a resident of the McLean, Va., the Smithsonian is a close and appealing place to maybe work in the future.

Is there any senior wisdom you wish to impart as you leave the College?

Make your friends and stick with them. It's not the place, but the people you're with that matter.

Outlasting the dry spells

I've been writing this column for quite a while now under the presumption that we're all thinking about sex pretty much all the time. And while that's mostly true, it's certainly not entirely true. It's unrealistic to

expect that we're always going to be feeling hot and horny. Sometimes, you don't feel sexy and you just aren't interested, which is totally normal too.

Dry spells come in all shapes and sizes, whether it's been two weeks since you and your girlfriend have been able to spend a romantic night together, two months since you've been on a good date or two years since you've been in a relationship with really great sex.

The lack of a sex life can be frustrating, especially if you feel like the only one around

going to bed alone. Except that everybody feels like that sometimes. As a friend of mine once said, without waiting through the dry spells, the wet would be a lot less exciting. What's worse (or at least weirder), however, than a period without sex is a period without a sex drive.

On the surface, not having a sex drive would seem to be a lot less frustrating than having an intact sex drive and no sex life. But, when you're used to feeling in the mood and enjoying yourself, and suddenly you're just not in the mood to get excited anymore, it can really shake your confidence. When you're in the midst of a dry spell, you can enjoy planning how you're going to break that dry spell. You know that your next chance will arrive sooner or later, and you'll be ready. But when an opportunity presents itself, and life calls out, "Ya ready?" and you're not, it can be disconcerting.

When you've been in a relationship for a long time, it's perfectly normal to find yourself in a bit of a rut. The same old routine can quickly lose its appeal, and leave you a little bored. Luckily for you, if it's only boredom that's stifling your sex drive, you've got some easy fixes. Whatever you've been doing, mix it up. Flip the light switch the other way, surprise your partner with some sexy new lingerie, put a fantasy into action or peruse through some old Flat Hats for plenty of other ideas.

However, it's true that sometimes it's more serious than just needing a little more spice in your love life. Sometimes your sex drive, particularly towards your boyfriend or girlfriend, can be a pretty good indicator of the state of your relationship. Really. If you couldn't keep your hands off each other for quite a while, and now, you'd rather go out with your friends or just go



to bed on a regular basis, it could be a sign that there's some other issues in the relationship you need to work on. I'm talking about more than just one or two bad nights; those happen to everybody, and there's no reason to get worked up about nothing. But it is important to understand that in a lot of relationships, the quality of the sex is an indicator of the emotional health.


Plenty of other things can also strike a blow to your sex drive. For some women, the change of hormones created by going on the pill can cause a decrease in sex drive, which can last for up to six months after going off the prescription. Please don't consider this a reason to have unprotected sex; it's a reason to talk with your gynecologist about what birth control methods will work well with your body, and to switch methods if you're concerned about these sorts of side effects. Also, other common drugs such as antidepressants can have sexual side effects that you should also discuss with your doctor if you are concerned.

However, other less-medical factors in your day-to-day life can also influence your sex drive. Stress and exhaustion, two common concerns around campus this time of year, can make it hard to have good sex if you fall asleep the minute you get near a bed, or if you can't find enough time to let yourself relax.

Lastly, sometimes it's hard to feel sexy without someone who makes you feel comfortable at the same time. If you've just gotten out of a relationship, it's fine to take a long time before you feel like being that comfortable and intimate with someone again, be it months or years.

The important thing to remember, be it just a dry spell or a little less sexual inclination than you're used to, is that it is not the end of the world. The last thing we need is something else to stress about, which doesn't help you feel sexy, that's for sure.

Kate Prengaman is the Flat Hat sex columnist. She's always willing to give advice if you've been slumping at the plate.



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SEAC to host Earth Day celebration

By Chase Johnson
Flat Hat Variety Editor

The College community will celebrate Earth Day tomorrow, marked by an all-day series of events planned and sponsored by the Student Environmental Action Coalition.

The events will begin at 11 a.m. on the University Center Terrace with a performance by the Rock River Gypsies. The 30-minute set will kick off a day filled with programs and concerts brought to campus to promote environmentally friendly practices.

The festivities will include performances by College groups, such as the Middle Eastern Music Ensemble and the Appalachian Music Ensemble. In addition, local and campus bands such as Dr. Thunder, Ultraviolet Ballet, Wet Spot and Runaway String Band will also contribute to the day's musical accompaniment.

The keynote event of the day will be a lecture given by Dr. Jeff Greenblatt, an energy systems analyst from Environmental Defense. The talk is entitled "Confronting the carbon challenge: a clean and renewable energy future."

Senior Jess Mackow, the Earth Day chair and publicity chair for SEAC, said that there will be more than just music and a lecture celebrating the College's Earth Day.

"At the outdoor festival, there will be free food, fair trade and organic and vegan cuisine vendors [and] a live animal show from the Virginia Living Musuem," she said. "The festival space will encompass a stage and sound system and more than 22 tables for sales, activities and information from various organizations and businesses."

Normally, Earth Day is celebrated in the United States on April 22. But Mackow said that any date is a good one to celebrate the environment.

"Earth Day is a reason to celebrate unto itself," Mackow said. "That's why I took [this event] on. Earth Day is a personal holiday for me."

The push for more environmental concern began in the late 1960s, but did not bear significant results until 1970. Under pressure from an up-and-coming environmental movement, President Richard Nixon signed the Clean Air Act. Within three years of the first official Earth Day in 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency was created.

"How many people can sing the Captain Planet theme song?" Mackow asked. "That wouldn't have happened in the 1950s or '60s. [The environment] just wasn't a concern. But now it's part of the public consciousness."

In addition to Earth Day, SEAC also campaigns year-round for energy conservation on campus and other

environmental issues.

"We're trying to help the College save money and energy, and we're helping organize the funding to do it," Mackow said.

SEAC has organized a campus-wide petition aimed at reducing energy costs incurred by the College. The innovative plan involves a loan program between SEAC and the College that would allow the school to use SEAC funds specifically to invest in lower-cost, more efficient energy. The returns on the loan would then be reinvested into attaining more efficient energy sources.

While campus issues are SEAC's top priority, the coalition also involves itself in national issues, such as the recent proposals to drill for oil in the Arctic.

SEAC holds meetings every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Campus Center. Their office is located near the ID Office.

The Earth Day celebration will run from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. tomorrow. The day will culminate with a drum circle in the Crim Dell Meadow. There is no price for admission. In the event of inclement weather, the festivities will be held indoors in UC Tidewater rooms A and B. The decision on location will be made Friday afternoon, and will be posted on the Facebook.com group Earth Day Rocks My Socks Off.

teaches Kate to have fun with life. When they walk off the stage at the end, everybody knows where they're going, so it really has a happy ending."

Lucentio, the other male protagonist, provides another corner of the love quadrangle, as he decides to pose as Bianca's Latin tutor in order to gain her affection. At the same time, Lucentio must overcome the absurdly protective father, which many male members of the audience will probably be able to empathize with.

"Lucentio is a very enjoyable role for me," Johnson said. "He's a nerdy character — which is always fun to play — but he's also a closet misogynist, which really comes out in the end. He falls in love with the idea of love itself, and this leads to his being greatly surprised when Bianca actually turns out to have a mind of her own."

Stressing a group-oriented process, Shakespeare in the Dark's 23 member cast and production team have been preparing all spring for the weekend's shows. Tickets are \$4 and can be purchased at the door of the UC Commonwealth Auditorium the night of the performance.

SHREWD

FROM PAGE 7

tor. "The fact that we pick it as a group makes it so much better because the people really want to do it," Koernig said. "The play is such a fun concept for college actors. They just go out there and have fun."

Koernig appeared in the group's previous two performances, and calls the change of scene to directing "an eye-opening and fun experience."

"It's always great being an actor," he said. "But I feel I've gained a great respect for anyone who directs. You have to put a lot into it, especially with casting the show."

When the lights hit the stage, however, all eyes are on the cast members and the interactions between characters which provide most of the comedy in the play. According to Koernig, this is particularly evident with the odd pairing of Kate and Petruccio.

"I've always felt that Kate and Petruccio are the perfect Shakespearean couple," Koernig said. "Petruccio

BRIEFS

Counselors needed

Victory Junction Gang Camp in Randleman, N.C. is a camp for children with chronic and terminal illnesses. Summer staff members and weekly volunteers are needed. Applications can be accessed online at www.victoryjunction.org. Contact Kara Keefe at kmkeef@wm.edu for more information.

Boathouse open

The Lake Matoaka boathouse is open. Come down and show your student ID to rent a canoe or kayak for free. Only one boat will be rented for each ID shown and the offer is

on a first-come, first-serve basis. Alcohol, fishing and swimming are prohibited. Weather permitting, the boathouse will be open from 3 to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Avon internship

The Avon Foundation is looking for a Communications and Events Intern to work this summer in New York City. Exclusive to students at the College, the internship is available to an upperclassman or graduate student who already has experience in a business environment. The candidate should have experience in public relations, communications or event production and should

possess excellent written, verbal, research, analytical and computer skills.

Job duties include supporting the Avon Foundation communications, events and sponsorship team. Interns will make \$13.50 an hour but are responsible for their own transportation and housing costs. Bring your resume and cover letter to Julia Brown in Blow Hall room 126 by 5 p.m. April 17.

Basketball coaches needed

Do you want to make a difference in children's lives? The local youth basketball league, CAA-NBL, is looking for coaches. All that is needed is two hours per week (one

hour of practice and a game Friday night or Saturday morning) and one hour monthly for coaches' meetings. Call Victoria Butler at 229-3316 to get involved.

Mental health talk

The Williamsburg Alliance for the Mentally Ill will present a program on suicide on April 18 in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre at 7 p.m. It will include the documentary "Fierce Goodbye," narrated by folksinger Judy Collins, and a presentation by Dr. Sarah Bisconer, a Psychology Associate at Eastern State Hospital and Adjunct Professor at the College. The program is free and handouts will be available. Contact Nancy Obadal at 258-2838 for more information.

Senior Spring Day

Senior Spring Day at the Alumni House is a long-standing tradition and it is your turn to celebrate. All graduating seniors are invited to the Alumni House for music, fun, food and beverages on April 27 from 4 to 7 p.m. The party is free and discounted beverage tickets are available. Students are required to bring a photo ID. Contact Carol Ann Dyke at cadyke@wm.edu or x1174 for more information.

Adventure fellowship

Delay the Real World will award a \$3,000 fellowship to a twenty-something who proposes a gutsy and

worthwhile adventure. All applicants need is passion and a plan. Details about the fellowship are available online at www.delayingtherealworld.com/fellowship.

Alumni induction ceremony

The Class of 2006 will be formally welcomed into the College's Alumni Association from 4 to 6 p.m. May 12 at the Alumni House. Alumni Association pins will be handed out to all graduating seniors, who are encouraged to bring family and friends along. A reception in Leadership Hall will follow the induction ceremony. There is no charge for the ceremony and attire is business casual. RSVP by May 10 by e-mailing Carol Ann Dyke at cadyke@wm.edu with your name and number of guests. Ms. Dyke can be reached at x1174 to answer any questions.

Outdoor day trips

The Recreation Center and three sport clubs are sponsoring recreational day trips to local destinations throughout April. The trips are geared toward beginners, but are open to everyone. Trips cost \$10, which covers transportation, equipment, training and snacks. All trips leave around 10 a.m. and return to campus by 6 p.m.

There will be a trip tomorrow with the VIMS Sail and Paddle Club at Diascund Reservoir near Toano, Va. There will also be a hike with the Outdoors Club at the Back Way Wildlife Refuge in Virginia Beach April 23. Spaces are limited for the two trips. For more information or to register, e-mail Greg Henderson at rsclub@wm.edu.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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At the door: \$15/person

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REVIEWS



Who wants to be a reality show movie director?
See Gossip, page 12.

‘SLITHER’ OFFERS BUGS, RESISTABILITY

By KYLE MEIKLE
FLAT HAT SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Fine. Whatever. I’ll go ahead and admit right now that yes, on more than one occasion, in more than one location, I’ve had to physically restrain myself from buying Mark Tarlov’s risible, totally resistible 1999 flick “Simply Irresistible” from the infamous \$5.99 wall at Best Buy. We’ve all browsed that wall at least once (or twice) in our young consumer lives; it’s that special corner of paradise where everything from “Species II” to “North” to the 1998 “Godzilla” rub over-dusty shoulders in mute competition for our Lincoln-plus-ones. And before

any of you start up with your hooting and hollering, let me just say that no, nobody liked “Species II,” and no, nobody liked “North,” and (God) no, nobody liked the CGI “Godzilla.” Because nobody liked “Simply Irresistible,” either — a so-called-“film” that, last I checked, rallied a generous 15 percent on RottenTomatos.com and involved a magical lobster (oh hells yes, a magical lobster) as a major romantic plot point.

So why, oh why, did I ever give in to the wily charms of this unromantic comedy in the first place? Well, because Sarah Michelle Gellar was in it, of course. And they called it ‘Buffy’-love (hey, it’s better than a magical

fucking lobster); starved for S.M.G., I gave up a couple of bucks and a full Friday night to bask in ‘Irresistible’ glory. Turns out, big mistake. Not only did ‘Simply’ suck, but every other production Gellar’s been involved with since (the overwhelming exception being “Cruel Intentions”) has sucked to some equal or greater degree. “The Grudge?” Sucked. “Scooby Doo?” Sucked harder. “Scooby Doo 2?” Yep, I’m there.

It was under a similar spell of Joss Whedon-inspired starry eyes that I made my way to a recent showing of James Gunn’s “Slither,” an alien/monster/zombie hybrid of a flick that stars Nathan Fillion (he of late, great “Firefly”/

“Serenity” fame) as a small town South Carolina deputy on the very sticky trail of some slimy little bugs from outer space that — you guessed it — slither into their victim’s mouths and turn them undead. But wait, there’s more; turns out Gunn was the creative (writing) force behind not just one but both of the aforementioned ‘Scooby’ suckfests. A guy’s got to start somewhere, I guess.

Gunn actually got his start at 1980s landmark (or is that landfill) horror house Troma, which you may or may not remember as the backing studio behind such cult cinema classics as “Class of Nuke ’Em High,” “Tromeo and Juliet” (also written by Gunn) and “The Toxic Avenger.” The sick shock-and-schlock ethos of Troma is more than apparent in “Slither” (indeed, ‘Avenger’ even makes a cameo), but so too are dozens of other in-house geek references to gore flicks such as “The Thing,” “Tremors” and “Invasion of the Body Snatchers.” Trouble is, Gunn’s more successful when he focuses on rewriting one cult masterpiece (as he did in 2004’s rather awesome “Dawn of the Dead” retread) than when he tries to rewrite them all. The director, it seems, is less interested in reinventing the wheel than he is in dousing it in various shades of KY jelly; so overstuffed is “Slither” with homage to crappy 1980s B-movies that it ultimately forgets not to be one.

It doesn’t help, either, that Gunn can’t even decide what kind of movie he’s trying to make in the first place. It’s not straight-up zombie shtick, a la “28 Days Later” or ‘Dawn’ — there are

See ‘SLITHER’ + page 12



COURTESY PHOTO • DEF JAM

Ghost pushes uncut ‘Scale’

By NATE HIPPLE
THE FLAT HAT

I was recently lurking on the Okayplayer.com message boards instead of reading some assignment or another when a particular banner caught my eye. It was for the newest Ghostface Killah album “Fishscale.” Ahem: “Fishscale — features the purest uncut hip-hop including ‘Back Like That’ featuring Ne-Yo.”

Now if any of you know who Ne-Yo is, or better yet have heard “Back Like That,” you know how funny that banner is. To say that song is pure, uncut hip hop is laughable. It is, at best, the sequel to “Never Be the Same Again” minus Raekwon and replacing Carl Thomas with the new hottest R&B singer. Apparently Ghost just has some serious female fidelity issues. More than likely, he has some radio-ready single issues.

Luckily for fans, the latter proves to be the case. That’s not to say that “Back Like That” is weak or a bad song by any means. It’s one of the better singles to grace radios these days despite Ne-Yo’s cringe-worthy chorus in both the edited and unedited form. However, no one is going to argue that this is a raw song. No one will argue that this single is worthy of being on an album called “Fishscale,” which, according to www.urbandictionary.com is “very high-quality cocaine, usually right off the key and uncut.” Still, after listening to the record, anyone will agree that it is the exception to the rule.

To put it bluntly, the drug title compliments this disc perfectly. Not only is it high-quality, not only is it uncut, but it also comprises the central theme. From dealing to doing to fighting for, drugs coat this album. Now, before you brush it off as another “gangster” album and move on to the next review, hear me out.

Ghost works in and with the drug and mobster imagery better than any other rapper in the game today. Whether he’s providing a science lesson in the chorus of “Kilo” or telling a story in “RAGU,” he’s dropping some of the most consistent rhymes in the game today. As the introduction to the Just Blaze-produced “The Champ” states, Ghost hasn’t been this hungry since “Supreme Clientele.”

If anyone remembers the old-school Wu-Tang Clan in this day and age of Southern Rap and club bangers, you’ll remember what a good era that was — dark, moody beats with hungry rappers delivering their strongest on every bar and angry cats trying to conquer the world one verse at a time.

Old Wu-Tang fans will not be disappointed by this album, the lack of any RZA beats notwithstanding. In fact, main contributors MF Doom and Pete Rock outdo the Wu-Master himself, providing grimy, sparse beats with that familiar haunting feel, but updated a decade. Moreover, as an extra offering to his oldest fans, “9 Milli Bros.” features the entire Clan, including the recently deceased Dirt McGirt over a Doom beat.

Strangely enough, this is not the only verse from beyond the grave as B.I.G. delivers a killer verse on the album closer “Three Bricks.” Surprisingly, this musical gathering of New York’s rap czars (Raekwon also joins the party) does not sound contrived. Even with Puffy — whose whole personality is derived from being B.I.G.’s friend (read: exploiter) — attached to production, it escapes the Tupac syndrome of relentless marketing based off a dead legend’s name.

The rap clique is a dominant theme on this disc. Besides the

See GHOST + page 12



COURTESY PHOTO • UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Elizabeth Banks (RIGHT) confronts alien terrors as Starla Grant, supported by Gregg Henry as Wheelsy Mayor Jack MacReady in “Slither.” Grant gathers a group of other uninfected town citizens, including her high school beau Bill Pardy (Nathan Fillion), to take on the insect infestation.

Saves the Day ‘Sounds’ mature

By PAT WALSH
THE FLAT HAT

Saves the Day is a band familiar with change. Initially formed in the winter of 1997 as a five-person punk-rock experiment, Saves the Day has progressed a long way from their 1998 full-length release “Can’t Slow Down.” Now after four definitively different albums and the loss of three original members, it is impossible to classify STD as the same band they were when they started almost a decade ago. With the release of their fifth studio album, “Sound the Alarm,” STD gets back to their initial fast-paced, anger-driven sound without giving up the unique style achieved on later albums such as “Stay What You Are” and “In Reverie.”

Previewing the record for fans at a recent concert at The Norva, Saves the Day front man Chris Conley, described the new album as emotionally charged.

“It is the soundtrack for the end of the world,” Conley said. “It is what the apocalypse will sound like.”

For fans who have watched STD grow from pre-pubescent teenagers into established punk icons, these words offer both excitement and

relief. The release of 2003’s critical success “In Reverie” displayed a new, softer, more sensitive sound that many fans were not expecting, and behind which they were simply unable to rally. Despite the record’s achievement as an artistic triumph, to many loyal listeners the release of “In Reverie” implied that the Saves the Day heard on albums such as “Through Being Cool” was no more.

Just as the phoenix rises from the ashes, “Sound the Alarm” revives the sound that gave STD a respected name. Teaming back up with producer Steve Evetts, the man who helped create “Can’t Slow Down” and “Through Being Cool,” STD has produced something that they, along with their fans, can truly be proud to call their own.

“Sound the Alarm” is 13 tracks and about 33 minutes of unfiltered, unadulterated Saves the Day. Opening songs such as “Head for the Hills” and “The End” come on fast and strong with sharp guitars and fierce drums that, if nothing else, are sure to catch the listener’s attention. With lyrics such as “I’m dying in the darkness of my mind / I dream I’m setting fire to everything in sight / If I die tonight and go to Hell, oh well,” new listeners will find themselves asking what horrible things

happened to Conley to inspire such a vicious mindset. Older supporters who have lived and died to the sound of Conley’s screeching vocals will be uncontrollably salivating for more of his signature angst-ridden imagery.

Despite “Sound the Alarm’s” relevance as a new endeavor by Saves the Day, it is too hard to overlook the influences of their past recordings in the underlying roots of this album. Tracks such as “Eulogy,” “Dying Day” and “Delusional” bear strong resemblances to fast-paced songs from “Stay What You Are,” such as “As Your Ghost Takes Flight,” “Certain Tragedy” and “All I’m Losing is Me.” Fans of slower “Stay What You Are” hits along the lines of “Freakish” and “This is Not an Exit” will also find solace in the new album in the form of “Don’t Know Why,” an incredibly intimate appeal by Conley to the listener on depression and being alone. “Know how hard I try / To keep myself alive / But I don’t know, I don’t know why,” he croons.

Two of the album’s most powerful tracks, “Shattered” and “Bones,” are obvious throwbacks to the earliest eras of the band’s history. “Shattered,” with its kick-in-the-face

See ‘SOUNDS’ + page 12

Primetime offers entertainment, excitement, escapism for all

CRITICAL CONDITION



Tristan Lejeune

My assertion in The Flat Hat two weeks ago that we live in “the single best time for television that has ever been” earned me more than a few raised eyebrows. “What of ‘Lucy’?” I was asked. “Wherefore ‘All in the Family’?” “Have you no ‘M*A*S*H’?” These and dozens of others are gone, but fortunately I love top-ten lists the way most people love children with sugar poured on their heads, so here are 10 reasons not to study for those finals. Some of them are artistic genius, some of them are little better than escapism — all of them put the “prime” in primetime.

10. Benevolent programming

Just because I don’t watch sentimental do-gooders such as “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” doesn’t mean that I don’t like that they’re out there doing good. So pimp those rides, ‘Idol’ize those wannabes and, above all, make that deal. “Deal ... or Queen for a Day?”

9. Good shows have problems

I’m looking at you, ABC. The swan song

of “Alias,” starting next week, will either complete the redemption of quality we left off last December or solidify the show’s rep as the lamest show to ever start with two great years. “Lost,” meanwhile, hasn’t been itself since we got the Dharma of the tailies and the lord of the hatch. But between the two they have the flexing fan fun of ‘Buffy’ combined with the swirling conspiracies of “The X-Files.” Even when mediocre they’re impossible to miss.

8. Better shows don’t

Transitions are always rough on “24,” but I truly was worried when the bazooka-launching, nerve-gassing first half of the season resolved itself, and there was a gasp of a plot fumble. They’re tightening ship though, and I’m optimistic. In fact, I think Jack just might save the world again. What a difference a day makes.

7. Diamonds in the rough

TiVo is slowly driving a stake through the television commercial’s heart, and for that

I thank God. The overwhelming majority of them are not just negligible but actively, painfully bad. Car companies that think screaming is the same as selling, smarmy prostitutes wanting you to call their chat lines, anti-drug ads that try to pressure you into ignoring peer pressure — they don’t just think we’re idiots, they think we’re tasteless, slothful idiots. It does, however, make the good ones (helloooooo Magic Fridge) feel like precious little charms dropped in our laps. Current props to Netscape and Sketchers, whose “Real World” parody ads are better than some of the series during which they play.

6. Comedy Central’s leading men

I adore Jon Stewart’s Bush impression, but Stephen Colbert can carry his whole half-hour solo. Battle for it boys, battle for it. David Spade gets more mileage out of stills of Nicole Richie (“A new study indicates people can live for years on attention alone”) than the entire humor

content of “Saturday Night Live” right now. These gentlemen take politics, pop culture and the American mindset and slap a veneer of grand giddiness on them. Even low-batter Carlos Mencia got belly laughs for the closet-Hispanic sketch “Wetback Mountain,” with guest star Mario Lopez. Speaking of whom:

5. Zach attack

Starting April 17, Adult Swim will begin showing reruns of “Saved by the Bell,” and I think the antics of Bayside High will be the perfect real-life addition to the animated shenanigans. The return of “Robot Chicken” and “Harvey Birdman” won’t hurt the line-up either.

4. Fry better be telling the truth

Another of Cartoon Network’s late night beauties, “Futurama,” has been rumored to be set for resurrection for years now, flames recently fanned by Billy West, the show’s

See PRIMETIME + page 12



SINGLED OUT
Death Cab for Cutie — “Talking Like Turnstiles”
From their *Crooked Teeth* single

2005’s “Plans” is closer to mainstream emo than to the heartfelt-indie that has made Death Cab for Cutie so great. “Talking Like Turnstiles” is a throwback to that earlier work and its montage of angular electric guitars, rolling drums and Ben Gibbard’s quirky vocals. Perhaps not all is lost.

— compiled by conor mckay

WCWM TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. *Bring it Back* — **Mates of States**
2. *I Killed My Best Friend* — **Le Volume Courbe**
3. *Classic Road Songs From Smithsonian Folkways* — **Various Artists**
4. *When the Going Gets Dark* — **Quasi**
5. *And I* — **Sing Sing**
6. *Etiquette* — **Casiotone for the Painfully Alone**
7. *Fab Four Suture* — **Stereolab**
8. *Showtunes* — **Stephen Merritt**
9. *House Arrest* — **Ariel Pink’s Haunted Graffiti**
10. *Rabbit Fur Coat* — **Jenny Lewis and the Watson Twins**

HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

China censors the Stones

Last weekend, the Rolling Stones performed in their first-ever concert in mainland China. The Chinese government censored the band, giving them a list of five songs they couldn’t play. The list included faves “Let’s Spend the Night Together” and “Beasts of Burden.” The songs were deemed inappropriate and omitted for their racy lyrics. The band was recently censored in their Superbowl XL performance, as lines were silenced from “Start Me Up” and “Rough Justice.”



Missy Elliott biopic in the works

Yes, Missy Elliott may still be alive, but that doesn’t mean they can’t make a movie about her. Missy is in the process of putting together her own biopic, hoping to follow the success of others like “Ray” and “Walk the Line.” Miss Elliott has brought in screenwriter Dianne Houston to write her story. “This story is much more akin to ‘Shine’ than to any hip-hop movies,” Houston said. We can only hope this one turns out better than 50 Cent’s.



D12 member killed

Proof, one of the founding members of successful Detroit rap group D12, was shot and killed Tuesday. The rapper was shot in the head outside of the Eight Mile Road strip mall, and was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital. Rumors are circulating that fellow D12 member Bizarre was involved, but at this point police have not named any suspects. Proof, whose real name was Deshaun Holton, was only 32 years old.

— compiled by conor mckay

WCWM 90.9 FM
Spring 2006
Programming Schedule
<http://www.wm.edu/so/wcwm/>

Sunday
Mid-2 a.m.: Chase Coleman
12-2 p.m.: Devin Oller
“Pass the Hat”
2-4 p.m.: Anne Gessler
“Music from Under Anne’s Bed”
4-6 p.m.: Mika Mason
“Naive Melody”
6-8 p.m.: Matt Blair
“Big Book of British Smiles”
8-10 p.m.: Matt Sherrill
“Pure Pop for Now

People”
10 p.m. - Mid.: Josh Specht and David Sievers

Monday
4-6 p.m.: Bohuslav Rattay
“Colonial Classics”
6-8 p.m.: Clayton Carr
“The Clayton Carr Show”
8-10 p.m.: Rachel Scheer
“Ray-List”
10-Mid: Nate Loehrke and Andy Smith
“Two Hours of Awesome”

Tuesday
Mid-2 a.m.: Russ Waddell
“Aural Coprophilia”
2-4 p.m.: Emily Flowers
“World Music”
4-6 p.m.: Kevin Bowman
“Twin Spin”
6-8 p.m.: Taurin Barrera and Dan Siepmann
“The Ebonic Plague”
8-10 p.m.: Keyan Shahdi
“News Casual Acquaintance”

10 p.m.-Mid.: John Carriger and Chip Cotton

Wednesday
1-3 p.m.: Eric Van Orman
“DJ Easter Egg Hunt Doin’ His Thing”
4-6 p.m.: Megan Vail
“Week in Music”
6-8 p.m.: Graham Dezarn
“Audiography”
8-10 p.m.: Steve Calder and Abbie Pugh
“Miercoles Gigante”

10-Mid.: Brian Kelley
“Party O’Clock”

Thursday
12-2 p.m.: Bryant Mohns
“Get Happy”
2-4 p.m. Robert Simmons
“Digging in the Crates”
4-6 p.m.: Roy Lenn,
Simmons
“The Pregame Show”
6-8 p.m.: Adam Burks
“The Six O’Clock Hammer Party”
8-10 p.m.: Alex de Leon

“Vinyl Archaeologies”
10 p.m.-Mid.: Sean Fox and Kristen Sincavage
“12 Step Program”

Friday
1-3 p.m.: Patrick Donaldson
8-10 p.m.: Robert Simmons
“The Pregame Show”
10 p.m. - Mid.: Chris Larkum and Amy Shields
“Get Ready To Live”

Saturday
10-12 p.m.: Josh Allen
“Untitled Radlo”
12-2 p.m.: Jack Charron
“Veritable Cornucopia of Sound”
2-4 p.m.: Daryl Cameron
“Dark Matter”
4-6 p.m.: Andy Beers and Dave McClendon
“Massive Saxophone”
10 p.m.-Mid.: Kurt Bailey and Adam Kane
“The Kiddie Hour”

‘SLITHER’

FROM PAGE 11

far too many lame in-references and yokel jokes for that; nor is it a “Scream”-style satire, either — it’s never smart or knowing enough to ever reach those heights. “Slither” seems to strive instead for some sort of “Shaun of the Dead”-style middle ground, as a romantic comedy-cum-horror show that knows just how gross it should be and really wants to be grosser. Consider, especially, that the film hinges upon a romance between ingenue extraordinaire Starla (Elizabeth Banks) and her

husband-turned-prime-infectee Grant Grant (“Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer’s” Michael Rooker, in a delectable bit of casting). Un-surprise, surprise, deputy Bill (Fillion) has been jonesin’ for Starla since grade school, and he’s more than eager to save the day when Grant goes all grumpy and gooeey.

Sure, the creatures that Grant spawns are gross, and the sequence in which they attack an isolated family on a farm is particularly skillful (some bathtub innuendo, copious amounts of coughed-up blood and a hell-a-creepy zombie family all play out very nicely), but it all feels a bit tired. Because

so it goes, from infection to infestation, then infestation to a conclusion that blatantly (if not gleefully) rips off “Jaws.” There are points of interest along the way — all of Gunn’s creatures seem to weirdly resemble both male and female genitalia, for instance, and he hints at the aliens’ otherworldly origins in an intriguing but never fully explored flashback sequence — but this is earmarked, secondhand, already trodden territory. “Slither” doesn’t go anywhere, really, except maybe toward that dusty \$5.99 bin in the sky. And I can definitely guarantee you that “Simply Irresistible” is far, far scarier.

GHOST

FROM PAGE 11

aforementioned Wu-Tang cut, Ghost also includes his newest clique, Theodore Unit, on a number of cuts. Unlike certain other “Units,” this group is full of talent and enhances each track instead of playing like a desperate plea for all-around record sales.

Also appearing on this album is the family unit. No, this isn’t a new rap group. It’s literally Ghost’s family — his son, to be exact. Calling himself Sun God, he delivers a passable verse that, while not lighting up money sensors, still proves he’s his daddy’s son. It’s a family affair as if Sly Stone were in town.

Aside from his usual drug tales, Ghost has always shown a penchant for the domestic. Besides the aforementioned relationship woes, Ghost has a

couple of songs dedicated to his mother. The more interesting of the two, “Whip You with a Strap,” features Ghost threatening a smart-mouthed child before reminiscing about the days of belt-whippings. Ghost’s all-around most interesting track, however, has to be the loopy “Underwater,” in which he details all that he sees under the sea from Kate Winslet’s rock from “Titanic” to Sponge Bob and his coquettish girlfriend.

To brush “Fishscale” off as just another “thug” album is to do it a severe disservice. Granted, it has more swearing than I would let any child under 15 years old near, and it features plenty of “hood stories,” but Ghost is such an intricate storyteller and poet that he is able to bring life to this subject. With a slew of producers and guests who compliment rather than drown out the main star, the songs are full of dark vivacity and breathe a life of their own. It may be grimy, but that’s just classic Wu.

‘SOUNDS’

FROM PAGE 11

bass line and lines such as “I can’t stand my own face anymore / The mirror is on the floor / Shattered a million eyes all crying please / Please don’t forget about me,” are reminiscent of multiple “Through Being Cool” tunes, most notably the title track and “You Vandal.”

For those die-hard fans with deeper connections to STD’s earliest work on “Can’t Slow Down,” “Bones” signifies a triumphant return to infancy while still embracing eight years of creative evolution.

The song, which begins as another STD pop-punk anthem, drops the “pop” about halfway through with an impressive crescendo of guitar and drum work that would send shivers down the spine of any music aficionado.

If nothing else, “Sound the Alarm” shows a new confidence in the band’s abilities as a creative force. Whether Saves the Day just needed some new blood or a good kick in the ass in the form of bad record sales, the band now performs with a sense of self that fans have been missing for quite some time. As “Sound the Alarm” is soon to spill onto music shelves everywhere, it is safe to proclaim that Saves the Day is back and stronger than ever.

PRIMETIME

FROM PAGE 11

lead actor. And just this week the glorious five-star finale replayed. You wouldn’t tease me, would you, Mr. West?

3. Lauren Graham’s smile

Of all the features that keep me coming back to those three generations of Gilmore Girls — their wit, their warmth, their penchant for coffee in one hand and martinis in the other — it’s the sunrise Cheshire grin on the lady in the middle that staples me to my seat. What’s a basic cable woman gotta do to get some Emmy love?

2. The day of the daughter’s wedding; or, at last

For years now we’ve been wondering, will “The Sopranos” take on that ultimate Corleone occasion and have Meadow tie

the knot? Last Sunday, with longtime Most Likely to Succeed guest director Steve Buscemi at the helm, the Sopranos coyly and confidently took on the issue and sidestepped it at the same time. Meadow remains single, and it was instead Allegra Sacrimoni who was our plump, blushing bride. The result was every bit as sleek, tacky, dangerous and cathartic as one could hope for. “An offer he can’t refuse” has very little on Christopher staring up at the altar, stage-whispering “the fuck’s that got to do with cold medicine?”

1. Matt’s stones and Trey’s intelligence

By the time this article hits stands, indeed by the time it’s edited for the second or third time, the colossal conclusion of “South Park” and its daring two-parter will have aired and we’ll know — will they or won’t

they get an image of the Prophet Mohammed onto our set? The bold and brilliant Colorado satirists have taken on every issue from cigarettes to stem cells, but their pet has always been free speech. And, as Mr. Scotch pointed out last week, it is when the call is genuinely difficult, when someone may get offended to the point of violence or jihad that our freedom of expression is most important. Whether Matt and Trey finally side with the sanctity of Islam or with that of the First Amendment (or, indeed, if Paramount forces their hand), the important thing is that such a debate is taking place, and in a rich, colorful forum that has time to spit in the eye of “Family Guy” while staging a high-speed Big Wheel chase. And to think they started off with fart jokes and telling dogs not to be gay.

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SPORTS

Men’s gymnastics flips to 11th at NAAs

By KRISTEN GAIDISH
THE FLAT HAT

Senior Ramon Jackson earned his third All-American honors as Tribe men’s gymnastics had its best finish in the history of the program at the NCAA Championships, finishing 11th in the country. The host team, the University of Oklahoma, won the event with a team total of 221.4, and close behind were the University of Illinois and Stanford University, who finished second and third, respectively. The Tribe scored a 202.025, finishing far ahead of 12th-placed Temple University and a mere two points behind the University of Nebraska.

Individually, it was a fierce contest to qualify for the second round of competition. Heavy favorite Ohio State University failed to qualify for the team finals, enabling the Buckeyes to take many of the top individual qualifying positions. However, the Tribe still managed to grab three spots during day two.

Jackson led the way for the Tribe in its opening event, the still rings, with a score of 8.4. Judges scored very rigidly in the opening round, with only two other gymnasts managing to break 8.0.

Sophomore Aaron Ingram was consistent with an 8.35, and senior Jeff Jackle scored an 8.15.

The Tribe had a season-high team total on the vault of 36.175, with three gymnasts eclipsing the impressive 9.0 mark. Jackson again led the way with a 9.2, while sophomore Dave Locke had a season-high 9.025. Both qualified for the second round of competition, and sophomore Gustav Lindquist just missed an event-final berth, with a score of 9.0. Also contributing solid efforts on the vault were freshman Sloan Crawford and senior Matt Elson; both landed cleanly for scores of 8.95 and 8.825, respectively.

Parallel bars was also a strong event for the Tribe. Ingram hit a season-high 8.55, and senior co-captain Owen Nicholls contributed an 8.475. Sophomore Dave Ridings nailed a nice set for an 8.3, and Jackson again anchored the line-up with a near-perfect routine that notched a 9.15.

Locke came through again on the high bar with a score of 9.0 to lead the Tribe in the event. Sophomore Andrew Hunt was close behind with an 8.95. Both Locke and Hunt just missed qualifying for day two of competition.

Locke also led the Tribe on the floor exercise, scoring a 9.25, where he managed to grab

a qualifying spot for the second day. Freshman James Prim surprised his coaches and teammates by becoming the third gymnast to qualify for day two. Prim’s routine on the pommel horse scored an 8.1, and was nearly a point higher than any of his teammates.

Jackson’s all-around score of 49.575 was a season-high, allowing him the chance to compete in all events in the first round of finals. He was equally impressive in the next round, scoring even higher with a 50.65. Jackson was also the only Tribe gymnast to qualify for the third and final day of competition, finishing 6th on the vault with a 9.45. Prim finished a solid 25th out of approximately 50 competitors on pommel horse, and Locke finished 27th in the floor exercise. Receiving his third All-American honors, Jackson finished seventh out of the top 10 competitors in the nation on vault. This distinction makes him the most decorated gymnast in Tribe history, his first two All-American honors coming on the parallel bars.

Men’s gymnastics will have their final competition at the USA Collegiate Nationals in Ithaca, N.Y., where they are the defending champions in the team competition.



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT

Seniors Lingda Yang and Megan Muth compete in their last regular season match against Virginia Commonwealth University Wednesday.

No. 22 women’s tennis prepares for CAAs

By HEATHER IRELAND
THE FLAT HAT

Ranked 22nd in the nation due to exceptional play throughout the entire regular season, women’s tennis is ready to take on the CAA conference tournament, prepared with all the skills and experience gathered over the past few months. The past few matches have gone well for the Tribe, and the team can only hope to improve from this point on, leaving all competition behind.

The Tribe dominated Old Dominion University April 5, coming out on top with a 6-1 final score over their CAA opponent.

Junior Megan Moulton-Levy and freshman Katarina Zoricic started off with an 8-3 win in doubles, with senior Lingda Yang and freshman Barbara Zidek defeating their opponents 8-3 not long after to clinch the team doubles point. Freshman Klaudyna Kasztelaniec was the first of the Tribe to win a singles match, coming out on top with a 6-2, 6-0 score. Senior Megan Muth followed suit with a 6-2, 6-2 win and Moulton-

Levy was not far behind, winning 6-4, 6-2. To keep the momentum going, both Zoricic and Yang sent their opponents home with a loss, final scores of 3-6, 7-6 (2), 1-0 (10-5) and 6-1, 7-5, respectively.

Two days later, the Tribe started off the match with a doubles sweep, already one point ahead of Rice University, due to the efforts of junior Alexandra de Guzman and Zidek, who defeated their opponents 8-2. Moulton-Levy and Zoricic won with an 8-2 score, and Muth and Yang won 8-7 (4). Moulton-Levy and Zoricic are ranked 24th in the nation for their doubles play, with Moulton-Levy and Zoricic ranked 17th and 78th nationally for singles play, respectively.

Zidek continued in the same fashion with a 6-1, 6-3 win in singles, followed up by Moulton-Levy coming out on top with her 6-3, 6-1 final score against the competition. Muth was not far behind, defeating her opponent 6-0, 6-4, and Kasztelaniec finished 6-0, 7-6 (6). Rounding off the shutout were Zoricic and Yang winning 7-6 (3), 6-2 and 6-3, 4-6, 1-0 (11-9), respectively, fighting hard for those final wins. The combined group effort led to

the overall 7-0 shutout, improving the Tribe to a 3-0 all-time record over Rice.

Unfortunately, the Tribe’s winning momentum was unable to carry over into their last match of the regular season this past Wednesday against Virginia Commonwealth University.

The match started off well, winning the team point for the doubles matches with de Guzman and Zidek showing up their opponents 8-2 with Moulton-Levy and Zoricic following up with an 8-5 win of their own. Muth tried to continue the winning streak, defeating VCU 6-0, 6-4 in her singles match, but only Yang was able to add any more points to the board with her 6-2, 6-3 win, allowing VCU to squeak by with a 4-3 over the Tribe.

The loss dropped the College’s CAA record, leaving them 2-1 for the regular season, and bringing their regular season record to 14-7. The Tribe has competed well this season and has earned the chance to compete for a 19th CAA title at the conference tournament at Huntington Park Tennis Center in Newport News April 20.

Lax moves up to no. 13, tied for first with GMU, JMU in CAA

By MADELINE WOLFERT
THE FLAT HAT

After defeating conference opponents George Mason University and James Madison University this weekend, the women’s lacrosse team jumped up four spots to no. 13 in this week’s STX/IWLCA Top 20 poll (see poll on page 15). The Tribe also maneuvered its way into a three-way tie for first place in the CAA with GMU and JMU.

Look ahead

Who: Hofstra University
Date: Tonight
Where: Hempstead, N.Y.
Time: 4 p.m.



The Saturday victory over George Mason, 16-12, created momentum that allowed the Tribe to surge past the Dukes last Sunday, handing JMU its first conference loss of the season. The final score was 12-6.

“Against GMU and JMU, we really focused on good team defense and getting back to the basics on attack,” junior midfielder Emily Vitrano said. “We played aggressive all over the field and created turnovers for the other teams. In the mid-field [junior] Kristen Wong and [senior] Morgan Lang set the pace, while [senior goalkeeper] Debbie Petracca and the defense held strong. [Seniors] La Nolan, Colleen Dalon and myself led the attack. We excelled in every statistical category.”

Vitrano scored six goals and tallied three assists for a career-high nine points against James Madison. Petracca recorded seven of her nine saves in the final period, shutting out the Dukes in the second half.

The JMU game began with the Dukes scoring first, but they were quickly rebuffed as junior attack Jamie Fitzgerald converted a free-position goal. After JMU answered with one, Vitrano began her offensive attack with an assist on a goal by Nolan. With 18:28 remaining, Vitrano fired again on an assist from Wong and scored a free position just 31 seconds later. JMU tied it up to 4-4 and then knotted it again at 5-5 in response to a Vitrano free-position goal. With 5:31 to play, Vitrano scored, and soon after Lang picked up a loose ball to make it 7-5. The half ended with an 8-6 Tribe advantage after a JMU goal and a shot by Vitrano, assisted by sophomore Jaime Sellers.

Vitrano scored at the 23:54 mark in the second, beginning what would be a Tribe-dominated half. With 20:10 remaining, Vitrano hammered in her career-high unassisted sixth goal. Vitrano’s offensive did not stop there, as she assisted a goal by Wong to push the score to 11-6 with 5:36 remaining. A goal by Nolan in the final 30 seconds bumped the score to 12-6 and put a cap on the Tribe’s win.

Vitrano was named CAA Player of the Week for her impressive weekend performance. She also received Honorable Mention National Player of the Week from Inside Lacrosse, and Womenslacrosse.com named her to the national honor roll.

Other Tribe players shared honors as well, as Wong ranks in the national top 10 of ground balls and caused turnovers per game, Lang ranks 12th in Division I caused turnovers per game, and Dalon ranks 24th in draw controls per game and 33rd in goals per game.

Although each player’s individual stats have added to the team’s renown, Vitrano stressed the importance of teamwork.

“I think this year we have succeeded because we truly are an amazing team,” Vitrano said. “We are 22 individuals who are best friends on and off the field. With that said, we also push each other extremely hard, making sure we all achieve our very best. At each game, every single person on the team is essential to the success.”

The Tribe cannot pause long for celebration, as Vitrano and the team are constantly looking ahead to future games and future competition.

“We have three more conference games coming up that will be really important,” Vitrano said. “Our goal this year was to make it to the NCAA tournament; in order to do so we must win the CAA tournament, so we are really focused right now on achieving that goal.”

The Tribe will next play Hofstra University tonight and Drexel University on Sunday, both away.

Duke lacrosse scandal brings controversy, deepens cultural divides

FROM THE SIDELINES



JEFF DOOLEY

The Duke University lacrosse team scandal this past month has brought about a swirl of controversy and amplified an array of cultural issues that the school will have to deal with for years to come. It has increased the divide between university and community, male and female, black and white and rich and poor.

In the early morning hours of March 14, a 27-year old female exotic dancer made a 911 call to police. The woman, a black mother of two who currently attends North Carolina Central University, a college close to Duke that has a largely black student body, accused three white Duke lacrosse players of raping, choking and beating her in the bathroom of the house where the lacrosse team was having a party.

Forty-six of the players submitted DNA samples for testing (the 47th, the team’s lone black player, was not required to do so, as the dancer identified her attackers as being white), but the results have come back negative, with no trace of DNA from any of the players. While the players’ attorneys have stated that this should completely exonerate their clients,

Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong has pledged to continue to pursue the case, citing other evidence he claims to have collected.

Whatever Nifong’s motives are in pursuing the case (many have accused him of being politically-motivated, citing his upcoming re-election campaign), it has become clear that it is absolutely essential, for both Duke and the Durham community, that all the facts become known in this case.

Duke teeters on the edge of what could become an insurmountable rift with its surrounding community. There is said to have already existed a divide between the college — which costs over \$40,000 to attend and is populated by a majority of white students — and the community, which has a more even distribution of whites and blacks and is far less economically affluent.

The makeup of the lacrosse team deepens the divide even further. The team consists almost completely of white players, and many of them came from elite New England

prep schools. While stereotyping the team as a bunch of spoiled, rich elitists would be as irresponsible as stereotyping the black exotic dancer, some of the players’ behavior prior to and following the incident has been particularly disturbing.

Ryan McFadyen, a 19-year old sophomore defenseman, sent an e-mail shortly after the alleged rape took place. In the e-mail, McFadyen said that he hoped to invite strippers over and then kill and skin them, saying that he would get sexual pleasure from doing so. While the e-mail makes no mention of events from the party, it serves — at the very least — as a snapshot into the disturbed state of mind that one Duke lacrosse player possessed the night of the party. Reports that a man uttered a racial slur at two black women who happened to be passing the house that night also represent a disturbing trend.

The way in which the lacrosse players have handled the controversy is also suspect. Instead of coming forward and fully explaining the events of the party, the team has been largely

silent, content to let their high-priced attorneys speak for them. Also unsettling are reports that the accuser has said that the lacrosse players tried to conceal their identities to her, saying that they were members of Duke’s track and baseball teams, and that the player who called for the strippers has admitted to using an alias when calling.

Whether or not any of the players end up being convicted of rape or physical assault, they are certainly guilty of terrible judgment. Hiring strippers to perform at a party already charged with testosterone, and then mixing in alcohol, was a plan that had little chance to end well. The contents of McFadyen’s e-mail raise the disturbing question of what the thought process of the rest of the team members was that night. Regardless of whether or not the accusations are true, by putting themselves in a terrible position, they have single-handedly tarnished the reputation of one of the nation’s most prestigious universities.

Jeff Dooley is the assistant sports editor for The Flat Hat.



FILE PHOTO + THE FLAT HAT
The men’s and women’s track teams hope to get a jumpstart on their competition at the CAA championship later this month in Richmond, Va.

Track gives solid performance at Duke

BY BRAD CLARK
THE FLAT HAT

After several weeks of the men’s and women’s track teams sending split squads to different meets up and down the east coast, this past week, while most students were enjoying the festivities of inau-

Look ahead

What:
Lou Onesty Invitational
Date:
Today, tomorrow
Where:
Charlottesville, Va.

guration and investiture, the teams focused all of their efforts on the Duke University Invitational, showing a clear glimpse of the team that will fight for the CAA championship later this month.

Setting the tone for the weekend with his second dominating win of the season, senior

Andy Smith managed to hurl the javelin 209 feet 1 inch, three feet more than his closest competitor. The mark counts as his second time qualifying for the IC4A meet — the eastern states’ championship — as well as the NCAA regional. This meet also stands as a continuation of Smith’s undefeated season, which is good news for the senior who hopes to earn his fourth CAA championship in two weeks. He claimed the CAA Field Event Athlete of the Week award for his performance at the George Mason University Invitational.

One of the team-wide highlights of the meet was the steeplechase event. The steeplechase is a 3,000-m race, with four hurdles per lap (three feet high for men, two-and-a-half feet for women), with the fourth hurdle of every lap in front of a water pit. Senior Sean Anastasia-Murphy finished first for the men, running a 9 minute 7.39 second IC4A qualifier and claiming third overall.

Anastasia-Murphy earned All-East in the event last spring and has broken the nine-minute barrier. Also earning IC4A qualifiers and personal bests for the men were sophomore Rob Dennis (9:10.4, fifth place), junior Anthony Arena (9:13.94, eighth place) and senior Mike Dominguez (9:14.44, ninth place). Junior Joel Parker also earned a personal best, running 9:28.08.

The women’s side saw two Tribe runners earning spots in the College’s record book. Senior Karen Pulliam hurdled her way to seventh in the event. Her personal best time of 10:50.91 earned her an ECAC qualifier, the third-best time ever by a Tribe runner, and barely missed the NCAA qualifying standard. Earning sixth on the record list and 20th in the race was freshman Emily Arena, who stopped the clock at 11:31.85 in her steeplechase debut.

The 800-m proved to be another of the Tribe’s strengths, with four of the five male competitors earning personal bests. Sophomore Ryan Jones, in his first outdoor season in uniform, led the charge by finishing in 1:52.56, good for 19th place in the seeded section. Displaying tremendous range, senior Jeff Hedley finished in 1:53.65 for 27th place. This result is remarkable, considering Hedley’s proficiency at the longer distances — namely his sub-14-minute and sub-30-minute credentials in the 5,000- and 10,000-m races, respectively. Closing in 27 seconds for the final 200 meters, freshman Zach Rubin produced a 1:54.31 for 34th place. This time earned Rubin — last year’s New England High School champion in the event — a personal best by well over a second.

“It’s tough running with so many good people on the track at once,” a shell-shocked Rubin said. “That’s definitely something to get used to. I was in dead last [in my heat] with 200 meters to go,

until I managed to kick it in — something I’ve never really had to deal with before.”

Sophomore David Groff finished just behind Rubin, with a 1:54.31 for 37th place. The race, though not a personal best, was very successful, as Groff was doubling back from a 1500-m effort the day before. Groff’s personal best of 3:56.94 earned him 34th place in the competitive seeded section. Junior Brian Wilber managed a new personal record of 2:01.54 to claim 92nd in the developmental section. Senior Lydia Malley represented the women in the race, notching a personal best of 2:13.22 for 22nd place.

The 200-m race saw four women earning personal best times. Senior Brenna Blevins ran a 26.13, shadowed closely by freshman Adeola Abisogun who finished in 26.15. Also finishing well, senior Sara McHale claimed a 27.40, just ahead of junior Hillary Schwab’s 27.50.

The men fared well in the 5,000-m, with three athletes earning personal bests. Senior Matt Keally, a former CAA champion, finished fourth in 14:25.49 for an IC4A qualifier. Behind Keally, sophomore Dan MacKay finished in 14:44.71, ahead of Steve Waite’s 15:29.52.

Several field event athletes claimed spots on their respective all-time lists over the course of the weekend. Sophomore Tom Mulcahy chucked the discus 150 ft. 3 in., the seventh-best distance in Tribe history. On the female side, senior Liz Hager heaved the hammer 144 ft. 10 in. to slide into eighth-place all-time for the College. Sophomore Erin Gnass pole vaulted 10 ft. 6 in. to tie for fifth place in the College’s record books. Amazingly, the Duke Invitational marks the first time that Gnass has competed at the collegiate level.

The Tribe competes next weekend at University of Virginia’s Lou Onesty Invitational.

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Women’s Lacrosse NCAA Division I STX/IWLCA Rankings

1. Duke University

2. Northwestern Univ.

3. University of Virginia

4. Georgetown University

5. University of Maryland

6. UNC Chapel Hill

7. Johns Hopkins Univ.

8. Univ. of Notre Dame

9. University of Richmond

10. Princeton University

11. Boston University

12. Cornell University

13. William and Mary

14. Syracuse University

15. Dartmouth University

16. Univ. of Pennsylvania

17. James Madison Univ.

18. Penn State University

19. Vanderbilt University

20. Stanford University

(Updated April 10)

Read The Flat Hat.

Women’s Tennis NCAA Division I Fila/ITA Rankings

1. Stanford University

2. Univ. of Notre Dame

3. University of Florida

4. Univ. of Southern Cal

5. Baylor University

6. Pepperdine University

7. Duke University

8. Vanderbilt University

9. Northwestern Univ.

10. UNC Chapel Hill

11. Univ. of California

12. Georgia Tech University

13. Univ. of Miami (Florida)

14. UCLA

15. Harvard University

16. Wake Forest University

17. Univ. of Texas at Austin

18. Arizona State University

19. VCU

20. Texas Christian Univ.

21. Clemson University

22. William and Mary

23. Univ. of Kentucky

24. Fresno State University

25. University of Virginia

(Updated April 10)

Sports Calendar

April 15 to April 21

— compiled by jeff dooley

Saturday

♦ Come cheer on Tribe baseball as they take on conference and state rivals Virginia Commonwealth University at 4 p.m. at Plumeri Park.

Sunday

♦ If you can’t make it Saturday, stop by Plumeri Park at 1 p.m. to see the baseball team do battle with VCU.

Monday

♦ Tired of getting picked on by all the bullies on campus? Then come out to the Shotokan Karate club from 7 to 9 p.m. in Adair gymnasium. The bullies won’t know what hit ‘em.

Tuesday

♦ Tired of walking around campus like a sucker? Then join the running club. They meet at the corner of Barksdale Field, across from Barrett Hall at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday

♦ Prepare for your upcoming career as a professional wrestler by attending the wrestling club meeting, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the William and Mary Hall fencing room.

Thursday

♦ Let the badminton club be your anti-drug, and stop by Adair gymnasium from 9 to 10:45 p.m.

Friday

♦ Get a taste of high society by grabbing a mallet and making your way out to the croquet club meeting, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Williamsburg Inn.

Box Scores			
Baseball			
University of N.C., Wilmington	April 7	L, 2-4	
	April 8	L, 3-8	
	April 9	L, 5-7	
George Washington University	April 11	W, 13-1	
Men’s Tennis			
Georgia State University	April 9	W, 4-3	
	Singles O’Brien (W&M) d. Stiegwardt	3-6 6-2 6-4	
	Ward (W&M) d. Podkrajsek	7-5 6-3	
	Cojanu (W&M) d. Boyd	7-5 6-3	
Doubles	Zuck (W&M) d. Balog	6-0 6-3	
	Cevka/Stiegwardt (GSU) d. Cojanu/O’Brien	9-8 (6)	
	Ward/Zuck (W&M) d. Boyd/Sulin	9-8 (3)	
Men’s Golf			
Marshall Invitational	April 7-8	13th place	

Women’s Lacrosse Standings						
	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
William and Mary	3	1	.750	8	4	.667
James Madison	3	1	.750	8	4	.667
George Mason	3	1	.750	7	4	.636
Towson	3	2	.600	6	6	.500
Hofstra	2	2	.500	5	6	.455
Old Dominion	2	2	.500	5	6	.455
Drexel	1	3	.250	9	3	.750
Delaware	0	5	.000	3	9	.250

Baseball Standings						
	CONFERENCE			OVERALL		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
Old Dominion	14	1	.933	31	5	.861
James Madison	11	4	.733	22	14	.611
VCU	8	4	.667	19	13	.594
Northeastern	8	4	.667	14	12	.538
UNC Wilmington	7	6	.538	25	10	.714
Georgia State	7	8	.467	18	18	.500
George Mason	7	8	.467	13	19	.406
Hofstra	5	10	.333	14	20	.414
Delaware	4	8	.333	17	13	.567
William and Mary	5	13	.278	11	22	.333
Towson	3	13	.188	12	24	.333

Tribe athletes admitted through ‘slotting,’ ‘committee’ process; boast high graduation rate

BY ANDREW PIKE
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Each year, athletic departments scour the country looking for athletes to join their teams. Even though the NCAA strictly regulates the recruiting process, the College makes this process even more stringent, because the Office of Undergraduate Admissions expects coaches to find student-athletes and field successful teams at the same time.

The College offers 11 sports for men and 12 for women, involving a total of 657 athletes, 335 men and 322 women. Not all 657 athletes receive scholarships, and none earns acceptance here if the admissions office believes they will not succeed academically.

The admissions process for student-athletes differs from the process for regular students only because of timing issues. Signing periods for student-athletes occur in November and February; therefore, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics holds 111 slots for admission and annually needs to use between 90 and 95 of them. Of these 111 slots, 60 percent are designated for out-of-state students and 40 percent for Virginia residents, while 54 percent are available for men and 46 percent for women. The slots allow for a rolling admissions process.

The athletics department produces a preliminary student-athlete admission evaluation for every recruit before the application process begins. The PSAE includes the student-athletes’ 12th-grade classes, highest SAT or ACT score and grades from ninth to 11th grades. The admissions office receives this information and groups students into three different categories. The first consists of those students who will most likely gain admission through the regular admissions process, but will definitely get in through the slotting process. The second consists of those that are worthy of being slotted, and the third group consists of those students who are not eligible for the slotting process, and are referred to a special committee.

“Nothing, not even professional-caliber academic prowess, however, is sufficient by itself to ensure admission to the College,” Dean of Admission Henry Broaddus said.

To be eligible for the slot process (the process by which athletes who would not normally gain acceptance but are deemed

able to compete academically are accepted into the College), a student must have attained a minimum SAT score of 1000, completed trigonometry, engaged in a solid college preparatory program throughout high school and demonstrated proficiency in a foreign language at the third-year level. The admissions office deems a student at academic risk if he or she does not meet these standards, and may refer him or her to a special committee after receiving a rating of “strong support,” “conditional support” or “no support” from admissions.

The committee includes the Associate Provost for Admission and Educational Management, a staff member from the admission office and three faculty members. The number of athletes admitted through the committee process has dropped from 12 in the 2000-2001 cycle to four in the 2002-2003 cycle. Nevertheless, according to the 2003-2004 Division I Athletics self-study report done by the College, “during the past three years, as many as 30 percent of student-athletes on aid applied by either the early decision or regular decision deadlines and were admitted by the admission committee without reference to the ‘slot’ and ‘committee’ processes.”

Student-athletes admitted to the College consistently top the minimum standards set by the admissions office. Average SAT scores for male student-athletes were 1159 in the 2000-2001 academic year, 1124 in 2001-2002 and 1179 in 2002-2003, while scores for male students averaged 1347, 1357 and 1355, respectively. Scores for female student-athletes hit 1199, 1172 and 1210 over the same three academic years, whereas scores for female students reached 1322, 1326 and 1345.

Scores for men’s and women’s basketball players as well as football players sat below the student-athlete averages during those three years, while baseball players and men’s and women’s track and cross country athletes scored higher.

The higher standards for Tribe student-athletes set by the admissions office resulted in an impressive academic progress rate and high graduation rates.

“We are very proud of the success student-athletes have at William and Mary in the classroom,” Broaddus said.

The College earned the fourth-highest APR in the country at 992 out of 1000

and ranked first among the nation’s public schools and those schools giving scholarships. Academic eligibility, retention and graduation rates provide the basis for this assessment. The College also boasts high graduation rates, with 87 percent in 2004, 83 percent in 2003, 80 percent in 2002 and 85 percent in 2001. However, the academic successes of Tribe student-athletes do not come without costs.

The athletics department pumps hundreds of thousands of dollars into recruiting and millions into scholarships. In the 2004 to 2005 academic year, recruiting expenses totaled \$305,380, and athletically-related student aid added up to \$4,332,115. However, in 2004-2005, the College awarded athletic aid to 55 to 60 entering students, which represents fewer than five percent of the entire incoming freshman class. In general, 295 athletes (57 percent of varsity athletes) received scholarships during the 2004 to 2005 academic year, yet 61 percent of those scholarships were partial.

The total revenues for the year — \$13,023,530 — barely topped the annual expenses of \$12,960,128. Senior Executive Associate Athletics Director Barbara Blosser noted that funding remains the athletic department’s biggest challenge. In 2003-2004, the College relied on student fees for 54 percent of the athletic budget, which corresponds to the fourth smallest percentage of the 14 Virginia public colleges and universities.

The Tribe has nonetheless remained competitive, particularly in the Colonial Athletic Association. The Tribe has captured 83 titles since the league’s inception in 1983, and that number places the Tribe 30 championships ahead of the next member school. Add to that three Atlantic 10 football championships, six Eastern College Athletic Conference championships and 44 Southern Conference championships, and the list of successes for Tribe athletics lengthens. The College also holds two NCAA championships in men’s tennis. In addition to championships, the Tribe has produced 36 Academic All-Americans since 1992. Furthermore, the Tribe has begun to make NCAA championship appearances a staple of the program.

During the 2004 to 2005 academic year,



JONATHAN SEIDEN • THE FLAT HAT
SAT scores for the football and basketball teams are lower than the average for student-athletes here. The baseball and cross country teams have above-average scores.

seven teams advanced to the NCAAs, and three — men’s cross country, men’s gymnastics and women’s cross country — have already advanced this year. Already this year, the Tribe has captured two CAA titles and one ECAC championship.

“We feel very positive about where we are right now [as a department],” Blosser said.

As for goals for the athletic department, Blosser mentioned full integration into the College, graduation of athletes

and increasing the competitiveness of the program. An annual goal remains to reside within the top one-third of the NACDA Director’s Cup, which the Tribe achieved last year with its ranking of 76. The cup is a ranking system that encompasses all Division I sports, and is based purely on the success of sports teams.

Tribe athletics combine strong performances on and off the field to make the College one of the most complete athletic departments in the nation.



ALLISON VEINOTE • THE FLAT HAT
In the 2004-2005 academic year, the College awarded 295 athletic scholarships. Of these 295, 61 percent were only partial scholarships.

Women’s golf hopes for CAA berth

BY ANTHONY ZECCA
THE FLAT HAT

The women’s golf team continued its solid season by placing fourth in the Bonnie Hoover Invitational last weekend.

Sophomore Erika Oldenkamp continued her individual success with a performance that tied the lowest 36-hole score ever posted by a member of the team in Tribe history. Similarly, Oldenkamp’s opening round 2-under-par score of 70 was the lowest single-round score achieved by a Tribe player in the past 25 years. It also happened to be the lowest round of

the tournament by a margin of three strokes. Her final score of 147 was good enough for second place in the individual rankings, and she led her team to a fourth-place finish overall. Pennsylvania State University set the pace with a team score of 611, followed by Georgetown University and Princeton University.


Besides Oldenkamp, the Tribe had three other golfers in the top 25. Freshman Seung Lee posted an impressive 79 Sunday and tied for 16th. Senior Sadye Murray and sophomore Misha Harvey followed closely behind Lee with totals of 159 and 160, respec-

tively. While Harvey dropped a few places individually after the second round, Murray was able to jump from a tie for 27th to a tie for 20th.

This weekend, the team hopes to qualify for a regional berth at the Colonial Athletic Association championships. The tournament is being held at the historic Pinehurst Resort. The Golf Club at No. 6 was recently renovated and reopened in March of last year. The back nine at No. 6 is a very challenging stretch, one that will most likely test the CAA competitors as they embark upon their last few holes of each round.

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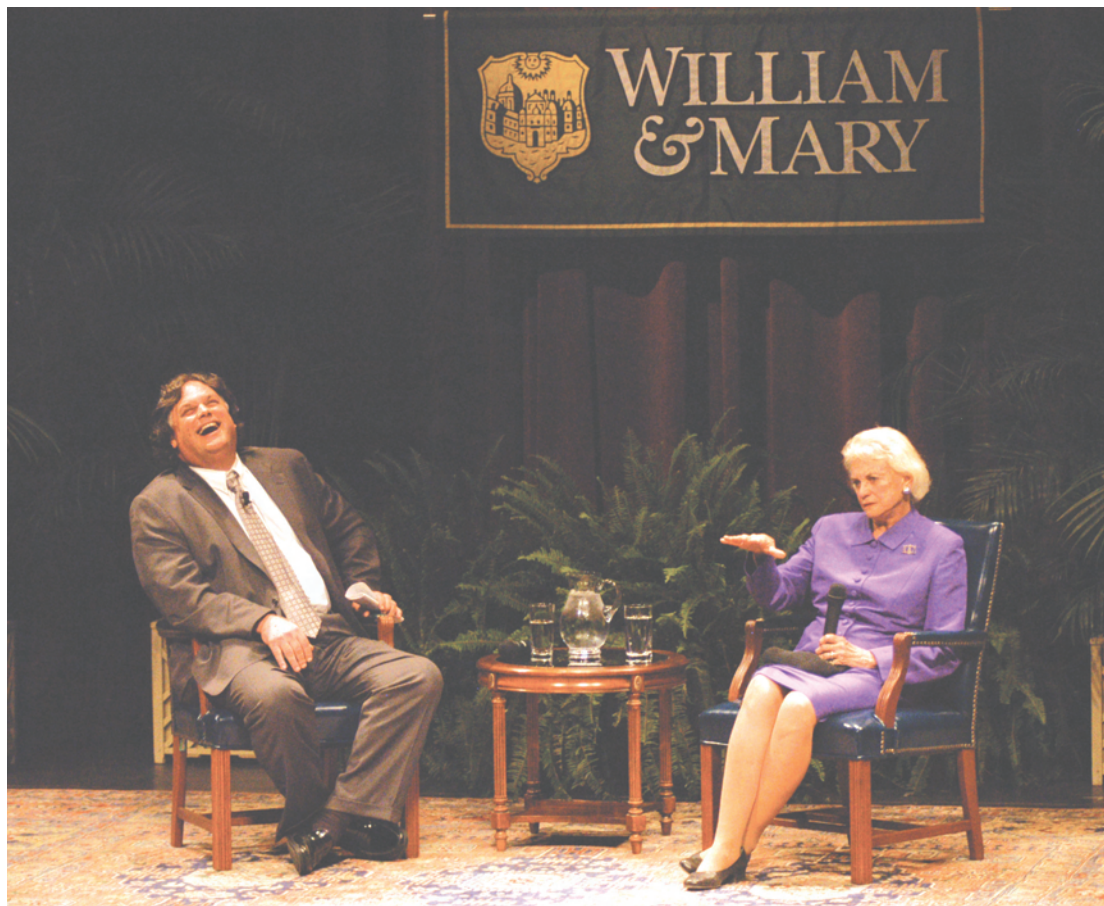
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